Bengaluru Friday, November 28, 2025 Pages 18 Vol 78 No 328 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Assam passes bill against polygamy

CM Sarma says state will next bring in UCC

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Nation

All-party meet on Sunday to discuss Winter Session Bills P.6

Nation

J&K police raid Srinagar mosques, madrasas P.6

State

Crop loss: Farmers to get Rs 1,033-cr aid P.3D

World

Indians top UK emigration list P.7

Online content: SC bats for autonomous regulator

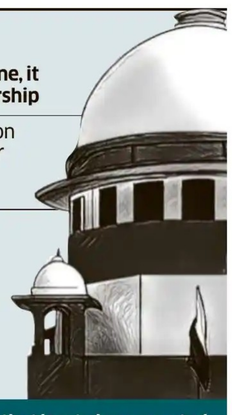
Bench comprising CJI suggests verification via Aadhaar to access adult content

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Once scurrilous material is uploaded online, it may soon go viral with millions of viewership

- Needs "impartial, autonomous" regulator free from platform users and the state's control
- Self-styled bodies will not help
- In the case of programmes with adult content, advance warning is not enough
- Age verification using Aadhaar or other methods could be used
- Court asks when content is 'anti-national', will there be a self-regulating responsibility of the intermediaries



> **The fundamental right to speech that has to be respected and protected, and there is no question of tinkering with that, but at the same time, the society and innocent people, children, they too have right, and their right is also fundamental right. We are only balancing both fundamental rights**
>
> - SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court on Thursday favoured the creation of an autonomous regulator to make digital content creators and platforms accountable for the accuracy and legality of online content, and suggested Aadhaar-based age verification to access content deemed "obscene".

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was hearing the petitions filed by podcasters Samay Raina and Ranveer Allahabadia and others in connection with the FIRs related to alleged obscene content in the 'India's Got Latent' show hosted by Raina.

The court emphasised on balancing freedom of expression with fairness, and protecting society, innocent people and children against harm.

"Once scurrilous material is uploaded on a digital platform, even having some anti-national content, it may soon go viral with millions of viewership," the bench said.

It said there has to be some "impartial, autonomous body" and an authority which should be free from platform users and also from the state's control.

Self-styled bodies will not help, and some neutral autonomous bodies, free from the influence of those who exploit all of this and the state also, are needed as a regulatory measure, the bench said.

Attorney General R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the Union government has proposed some new guidelines and is in the process of consultation with the stakeholders.

With regards to accessing age-appropriate content, the CJI made certain suggestions. "It is strange that I create my own channel and keep doing things without being accountable. Yes, free speech has to be protected...suppose there is a programme with adult content...there can be warning in advance with parental control," he said. "See the issue is warning is given and the show starts. But by the time you decide not to watch, it starts. The warning can be for a few seconds...then perhaps ask for your Aadhaar card, etc. So that your age can be verified and then the programme starts. Of course these are illustrative suggestions."

The counsel for one of the parties flagged the lacunae in user-generated content (UGC) on platforms like YouTube and Facebook. The I&B has filed a note saying that it is thinking about regulating the UGC on digital platforms.

▸ Autonomous Page 3D

SC suggests law to protect dignity of disabled

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Thursday suggested a stringent law in line with the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to protect the dignity of the disabled.

The top court also directed content creator Samay Raina and other comedians to host persons with disabilities twice a month, and telecast programmes about success stories of persons with disabilities to generate funds for treatment of such persons, including those suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, "Why can't you bring a stringent law on the lines of the SC-ST Act which criminalises casteist remarks? There is punishment if you demean them."

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, appreciated the observation and said humour cannot be at the cost of dignity.

▸ Disabled, Page 3D

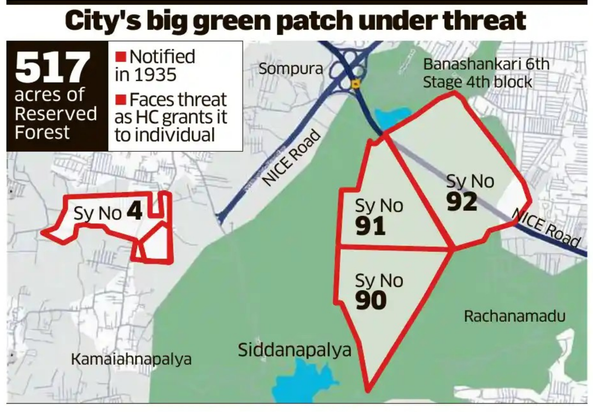
Forest dept stares at losing Rs 30k-cr land

Officials learnt of 3-month-old HC order only 2 days ago

DH EXCLUSIVE

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

City's big green patch under threat



The forest department is staring at the possibility of losing 517 acres of reserved forest in south Kengeri, the best patch of greenery in Bengaluru, thanks to the delay in getting access to a judgment of the Karnataka High Court. The commercial value of the land is estimated between Rs 27,000 crore and Rs 35,000 crore.

On August 13, 2025, one M B Nemana Gowda filed a writ petition in the high court claiming that he was grantee of 532 acres in survey numbers 4, 48, 90, 91 and 92 of BM Kaval land in Kengeri Hobli. After 17 days, on August 30, the court ordered revenue authorities to enter Gowda's name in the revenue records within 90 days (by November 29).

Forest officials said they were unaware of these developments till Wednesday. With Friday being the last day to file an appeal before the high court, the officials are now scrambling to get legal opinion on the matter.

Documents accessed by *DH* shows that K P Yoganna, additional advocate general, recommended filing of an appeal in a letter dated November 27.

▸ Forest land, Page 3D

Petitioner filed 10 other pleas

Petitioner Nemana Gowda had filed 10 other petitions in the high court pertaining to lands in Chikkamagaluru and Hassan, while an assistant commissioner looking into yet another case had ordered officials to file a case against him for forgery. Page 3D

War of the 'word': Siddu's veiled dig at Shivakumar amid power tussle

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday appeared to take a dig at his deputy D K Shivakumar on keeping promises in an exchange on 'X' that came amidst the leadership tussle between the two.

On Thursday morning, Shivakumar posted a statement he made Wednesday at the Constitution Day celebration organised by the Congress: "Word power is world power. Keeping one's word is the greatest power in the world!"

This was widely interpreted as a reminder to Siddaramaiah about his alleged promise that he would make way for Shivakumar after November 20. "Be it a judge, president or anyone else including myself, everyone has to walk the talk," Shivakumar wrote on the social media platform.

Shivakumar's post, which gained a lot of traction throughout the day, intertwined with speculation that he is waiting to replace Siddaramaiah.

In the evening came Siddaramaiah's post as if it was a response to Shivakumar's. "A word is not power unless it betters the world for the people," the CM wrote.

▸ Siddaramaiah, Page 3D

BJP plans no-confidence motion, Page 4

Vokkaliga body warns Cong

The Vokkaligara Sangha has warned the Congress of electoral ramifications if D K Shivakumar is not made the CM. This comes a day after Vokkaliga pontiff Nirmalanandanatha Swami publicly backed the DKS' chief ministerial ambition.
Details on Page 4

BWSSB offers one-time dues settlement

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cabinet on Thursday approved the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) proposal to provide a one-time settlement (OTS) option for defaulters.

Briefing reporters, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said the one-time settlement (OTS) scheme will help residential and commercial connections settle their pending dues. "Interest, fines and penalties will be waived under the OTS scheme. The OTS scheme will be implemented in a three-month window from the date of issue of order," Patil said.

According to Patil, BWSSB has dues amounting to Rs 701 crore.

Of this, the principal amount is Rs 439 crore and Rs 262 crore is the interest accrued.

According to data with *DH*, as of May 2024, residential consumers owe BWSSB close to Rs 288 crore, commercial establishments have pending dues to the tune of Rs 184 crore, and various state and central government agencies, including statutory bodies, are cumulatively sitting on dues close to Rs 176 crore.

▸ BWSSB, Page 3D

48 flights delayed due to low visibility at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 48 flights were delayed at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) due to low visibility caused by dense fog on Thursday.

The foggy conditions caused several delays between 4.44 am and 8 am, after overnight drizzle caused dense fog.

The 48 flights include both major and minor delays, with 69 minutes being the maximum delay. Of the 48 flights, 33 crossed the 15-minute threshold of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) standards for flight delays.

During this period, two flights were also diverted. An Air India Express flight (IX 2923) from Mangaluru was diverted to Chennai at 7.21 am and at 7.47 am, an Air India flight (AI 2653) from Delhi was diverted to Kochi.

Though both the north and south runways of KIA are equipped with CAT III-B instrument landing system, which is designed to provide support during low-visibility, flight operations at the airport remain impacted due to low visibility during the winter months, especially during early mornings.

"While the airport is equipped with CAT III-B, it is also important that pilots are trained to use the system. Not many Indian airlines train their pilots, so the low visibility becomes a concern," shared an airport source.

CAT III-B It provides accurate lateral and vertical guidance to pilots, ensuring a safe and aligned descent.

Mercury dips in Bengaluru

Bengaluru has seen a significant dip in temperatures over the last 15 days. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 16.7 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, nearly 1.6 degrees less than the mean minimum temperature in November.
Details on Page 3

All-rounders command HUGE PRIZE

All-rounders were the most sought-after at the Women's Premier League mega auction in New Delhi on Thursday as franchises loosened their purse strings for their ability to make a difference with both the ball and bat.

India all-rounder **Deepti Sharma,** who won the Player of the Series award in the recently-concluded ODI World Cup, was picked up by UP Warriorz for **Rs 3.20 crore** that made her the highest buy of the day

- **Heather Knight, Alice Capsey, Alyssa Healy, Alana King** were among the names who surprisingly had no takers
- RCB struck a solid deal with **Grace Harris** for **75 lakh**
- On the day, **Rs 40.8 crore** was spent on a total of **67 players**

Shikha Pandey, who last played for India in February 2023, caused the biggest surprise of the day when UP Warriorz splurged **Rs 2.40 crore** on her

RCB, the 2024 champions, largely adopted a strategic approach with their biggest buy being England pacer **Lauren Bell** for **Rs 90 lakh**

- RCB laid a special focus on pace, roping in **Pooja Vastrakar** for **Rs 85 lakh**

New Zealand's **AMELIA KERR,** another all-rounder, too raked in the moolah as Mumbai Indians got her back for **Rs 3 crore**

US begins terror probe after shooting in Washington

WASHINGTON, AGENCIES: The FBI said on Thursday it was launching a full-scale terror probe after a gunman carried out what officials described as an "ambush style" attack near the White House, shooting two National Guard soldiers multiple times with a revolver.

The young soldiers shot Wednesday remained in critical condition.

The shooter was identified as 29-year-old Afghan national Rahmanullah Lakanwal, who worked with US forces in his country during the war against the Taliban and settled in America after the Islamists seized power again in 2021.

Trump, who was at his resort in Florida at the time of the attack, said his administration would "re-examine" all Afghans who came to the US during Joe Biden's presidency.

Details on Page 7

DRUG DEAL

Smugglers turn to air travellers to traffic hydroponic ganja

DH SPECIAL

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

NARCO NEXUS

- Youngsters are offered free trips, accommodation, modest financial rewards in exchange for carrying what they believed were consumer goods
- Customs at RGIA, Hyderabad, seized over 110 kg of hydroponic ganja in the last two financial years
- The surge in smuggling attempts directly linked to Thailand's decision to decriminalise cannabis
- Lenient regulation in Thailand has unintentionally created a ready supply chain for criminal networks

In a shift in the regional narcotics landscape following Thailand's decision to legalise cannabis, traffickers have turned to smuggling high-potency hydroponic ganja into India often through Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA).

Over the past two financial years, RGIA has emerged as a frontline in India's efforts to curb the inflow of hydroponic cannabis sourced from Southeast Asia.

With international travel expanding again, customs officials in Hyderabad have been confronting a sharp rise in attempts to smuggle cannabis varieties grown in controlled hydroponic setups, known for being far stronger and more addictive than the locally cultivated marijuana commonly found in India.

According to officials, customs teams at RGIA have seized over 110 kg of hydroponic ganja valued at nearly Rs 110 crore in the illicit market in the last two financial years. The surge in smuggling attempts, they say, is directly linked to Thailand's decision in 2022 to decriminalise cannabis.

"Since Thailand's decision to decriminalise the plant in 2022, the country has witnessed a rapid proliferation of dispensaries, cafés and street kiosks selling cannabis products of varying strengths. Lenient regulation and widespread visibility of cannabis in tourist districts have unintentionally created a ready supply chain for criminal networks. Easy procurement, coupled with the prospect of high margins in India's illicit drug market, have driven organised syndicates to exploit India-bound travellers as couriers," a senior customs official at RGIA told *DH*.

Hyderabad's strong air connectivity with Thailand and its steady flow of first-time leisure travellers have made it an attractive target for such smuggling operations.

▸ Ganja, Page 3D

Quickly

EC empowered to conduct SIR: SC

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it did not agree with the contention that the Election Commission (EC) lacked the power to conduct the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The top court maintained that if a process was fair and transparent, the poll body could adopt it. A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi found the submissions by senior advocate A M Singhvi, representing parties opposing the SIR, unconvincing.
Details on Page 5

Congress reviews Bihar poll debacle

Several Congress leaders who contested the recent Bihar Assembly elections conveyed to the party's top brass on Thursday that the NDA government's Rs 10,000 transfer to women beneficiaries and delay in seat-sharing deal were among the reasons for the poll debacle.
Details on Page 5

Hosur airport: TN floats bid to select consultant

Within weeks of applying for site clearance for the Hosur airport project, the Tamil Nadu government has floated bids for selecting a consultant to prepare a Detailed Techno-Economic Report for the facility.
Details on Page 5

Expelled AIADMK veteran joins Vijay's party

Veteran AIADMK leader KA Sengottaiyan, expelled after a dramatic rebellion against party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, has now crossed over to actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK).
Details on Page 6

83 dead as Hong Kong firefighters battle burning towers

Firefighters battled a blaze at a high-rise apartment complex in Hong Kong for a second day on Thursday, as the death toll rose to 83 in one of the deadliest fires in the city's modern history.
Details on Page 7

India, Indonesia to strengthen ties

India and Indonesia on Thursday moved ahead in the long-awaited Brahmos deal with Jakarta supporting New Delhi to set up a joint committee to strengthen collaboration in "technology transfer" even as the two Asian powerhouses reiterated their commitment to keep the Indo-Pacific region "free, open and peaceful".
Details on Page 6

Aarthi Scans opens Vital Insights longevity lab in Bengaluru

(Left to right) Dr Prasannaa Vignesh, Dr Aarthi Prasannaa, Anurita Basu, Basu Shanker, Dr Arunkumar Govindarajan and Avnish Parekh.

Aarthi Scans and Labs, India's largest integrated diagnostics provider, inaugurated its new performance and longevity lab, Vital Insights, at its Jayanagar centre. The facility was launched by Basu Shanker, Head Strength and Conditioning Coach of Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Founder of Primal Patterns, in the presence of Aarthi Scans and Labs' Dr Aarthi Prasannaa, Chief Radiologist and Director; Dr Prasannaa Vignesh, Radiologist and Director; and Dr Arunkumar Govindarajan, Radiologist and Director.

Vital Insights enables individuals to go beyond routine health check-ups by assessing the body across three dimensions - structural, chemical and functional. Using advanced tools such as full-body MRI, DEXA scans, VO_2 Max testing, comprehensive blood profiling, and strength and balance assessments, the centre provides a holistic view of how the body performs.

Each assessment is followed by personalised recommendations across exercise, nutrition, supplementation and lifestyle, helping individuals enhance health and performance.

At the launch, Vital Insights introduced VITAL APEX, a flagship programme combining full-body MRI, comprehensive blood biomarkers and functional performance testing to provide an in-depth evaluation of the body. The programme enables individuals to monitor progress and drive continuous improvement with data-based reviews.

DH Aarthi Scans and Labs

"Performance begins with clarity. Vital Insights and the APEX programme bring critical data to the forefront, helping athletes and fitness enthusiasts understand the body's needs. This helps them train smarter, recover faster and perform better for longer. By using science and personal data, Aarthi Scans enables individuals to unlock their full potential and remain at the top of their game", said Basu Shanker.

Dr Prasannaa Vignesh added, "Aarthi Scans was built to make diagnostics accessible. With Vital Insights, we move from diagnosing illness to unlocking potential. This is proactive, precision-led healthcare. This lab integrates advanced diagnostics and personalised health roadmaps, empowering individuals to optimise their wellness, prevent disease and extend their longevity."

"With this centre, Vital Insights advances its mission to make data-driven performance and longevity accessible to all", said Avnish Parekh, Head of Strategy and Growth, Vital Insights.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Woman flees hospital after delivering baby girl

BENGALURU, DHNS: A newborn baby girl delivered at a private hospital was allegedly abandoned by her mother, prompting the hospital to alert the police and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

The incident took place in Parappana Agrahara police station limits and the police have issued a notice to the hospital for admitting the woman without collecting any documents of the woman or details about her family members. However, the staff of the hospital told the police that the woman seemed upset over delivering a girl and she might have decided to abandon the baby, the police said.

A senior police officer said that as per the FIR, the woman, identified as Sanka Seet (aged about 20 years), arrived alone at the hospital in Konappana Agrahara on November 10 and delivered the baby the next day.

She remained admitted for four days before leaving the premises, abandoning the newborn. The hospital continued to care for the infant and later shifted her to the NICU due to medical concerns.

On November 21, NICU staff internally reported that the baby required protection and official intervention. A formal report was then sent to the Women & Child Development Department, following which the CWC, West Zone (Anekal Taluk), initiated proceedings regarding the child's custody and welfare.

Based on an alert, police registered a suo motu case on Wednesday and have obtained CCTV footage to trace the woman.

Woman burns 3-year-old with hot iron for turning on gas stove

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman allegedly burnt her three-year-old son with a hot iron as punishment. Neighbours called the police after hearing the boy's constant cries.

The incident was reported from Nallurupuram, near HAL, on November 24.

Alarmed by the boy's screams, neighbours confronted his mother, Nithya, who brushed the incident off, saying the child was "stubborn" and "it had become his habit."

The following day, neighbours noticed burn marks on the boy's cheek and chest when he came out of the house.

They contacted the police helpline 112 to complain about the incident. The child was taken to Bowring Hospital for a medical examination, while Nithya was detained for interrogation. She reportedly admitted to beating the boy and burning him with a hot knife.

Preliminary investigations revealed that she had separated from her husband and was living with her partner. She told the police that the boy frequently switched on the gas stove, and in anger, she punished him. Police initially suspected her partner's involvement but later ruled it out, stating that he was not present during the assaults.

Based on a complaint, HAL police have registered a case against Nithya for assault and cruelty to a minor.

The boy has been handed over to the Child Welfare Centre in Madiwala for further care.

'It was heartbreaking'

The complainant in the case and the family's neighbour, Parvathi S, said the child was rarely seen outside the house since the family moved in a month ago.

"Nithya told us she lived in Baiyappanahalli earlier and worked as a domestic help. It was heartbreaking to see the boy — he had been brutally assaulted. Before calling the police, I discussed the issue with my neighbours because we had been hearing his cries for days. When we questioned her, she rudely said she would do whatever she wanted since he was her son and no one should interfere," Parvathi told *DH*.

OBITUARY

MR. ARTHUR DENNIS JOHN
Retd. Deputy Registrar,
High Court of Karnataka
(11.12.1938 - 27.11.2025)

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on... that they may rest from their labours and their works will follow them."

Funeral service will be held on 28th Nov 2025 at 2:30 PM at Wesley English Church, Promenade Road, followed by the burial at Gate No.3 Hosur Road Cemetery at 4pm.

Deeply mourned by: Family members

KSR | **YESHWANTPUR STATION** | Cantonment | SMVT | KR Puram

Travellers have resorted to camping on the platforms, making the environment feel overcrowded and uncomfortable. Concerns have also been raised regarding the lack of escalators, slopes, or lifts in the skywalk, making accessibility difficult.

Delay in renovation work deprives passengers of facilities at Yeshwantpur railway station

HIGHLIGHTS

6 Platforms — Second busiest station in Bengaluru

Established in 1881 by Maharaja Chamarajendra Wadiyar X

119 trains — The number the station serves

Rs 377.86 cr (approx) For redevelopment

ASRA MAVAD AND SHRADDHA A K
BENGALURU, DHNS

Yeshwantpur Junction, established in 1881 by Maharaja Chamarajendra Wadiyar X, plays a crucial role in alleviating congestion at the KSR Bengaluru railway station and enhancing urban transportation. Over the years, it has evolved into a major junction on key routes, including Bengaluru-Pune and Bengaluru-Hyderabad.

Currently, the station is undergoing significant renovations, which have persisted for nearly three years. Unfortunately, this construction has rendered many essential amenities unusable, including waiting halls, toilets and medical rooms. The remaining public toilets are in deplorable condition due to overuse, and the platforms are not much better, suffering from numerous cracks and potholes that pose safety hazards.

In an effort to address the situation temporarily, shipping containers have been converted into waiting rooms, albeit with limited ventilation. These containers are situated outside the station, near the back entrance, which defeats the purpose of a waiting area that should ideally be close to the platforms for passenger convenience. As a result, many travellers have resorted to camping on the platforms, making the environment feel overcrowded and uncomfortable. While many of these issues can be attributed to ongoing construction, concerns have also been raised regarding the lack of escalators, slopes, or lifts in the skywalk, making accessibility difficult.

STATE OF STATIONS

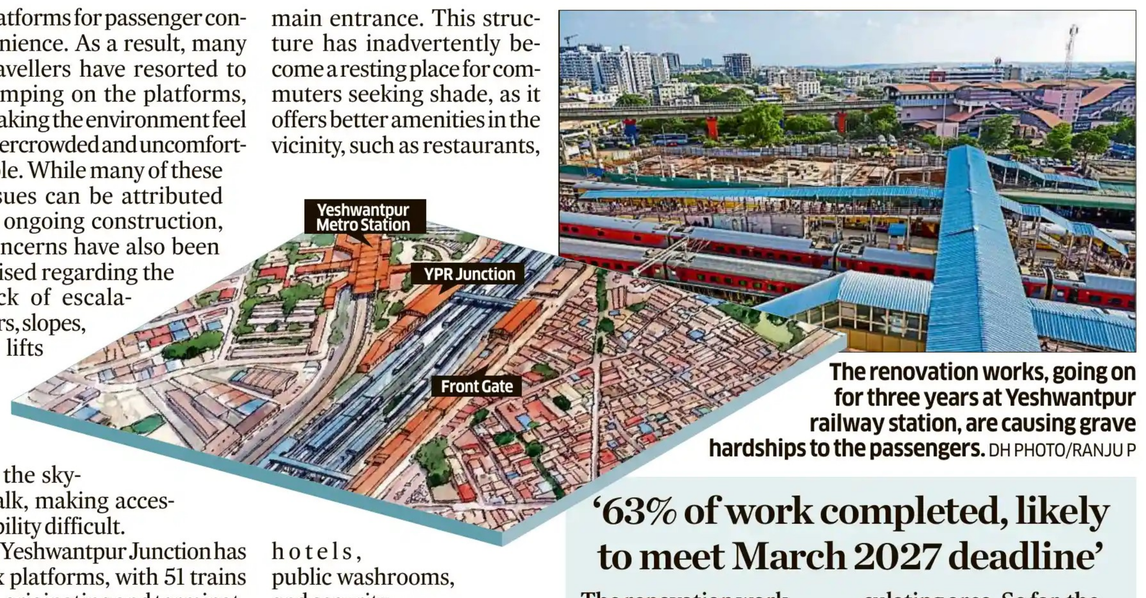
Yeshwantpur junction has six platforms, with 51 trains originating and terminating there, in addition to 68 trains that stop briefly. The station's strategic location near the Yeshwantpur metro station and the nearby BMTC bus station enhances its connectivity, supported by a range of auto rickshaws and taxis available in the area. However, the railway station remains unconnected with the metro station across the road, as authorities dilly-dally on constructing the promised foot overbridge.

Meanwhile, a flyover bridge is being constructed to connect to the forthcoming railway parking near the main entrance. This structure has inadvertently become a resting place for commuters seeking shade, as it offers better amenities in the vicinity, such as restaurants, hotels, public washrooms, and security.

The influx of passengers camping on the platforms has led to several cases of theft at the station. But overall, theft cases at the station have significantly reduced between 2023 and 2025, said Yathish N, Railway Superintendent of Police.

So far, in 2025, the station saw 39 cases of theft, compared to 90 cases in 2023 and 69 in 2024, he said.

The Railway Board has declined to approve the South Western Railway's proposal to build four new platforms by shifting the track machine depot. The new platforms - two each for passenger and suburban trains - were aimed at eliminating wait times for trains and creating space for new services.



The renovation works, going on for three years at Yeshwantpur railway station, are causing grave hardships to the passengers. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

'63% of work completed, likely to meet March 2027 deadline'

The renovation work at the station is likely to be completed by March 2027, said a South Western Railways (SWR) spokesperson, sharing that about 63% of the redevelopment work at the station had been completed so far. The station is being redeveloped at an approximate cost of Rs 377.86 crore, and the work has been split between two phases.

In Phase 1, important works include construction of the linen store and office building, RPF/GRP building, a multi-level car park (G+5 floors), an east side elevated arrival/departure plaza, and improvements to the circulating area. So far, the linen and RPF buildings have been completed.

The multi-level car parking facility will cover 6,000 sqm and be able to accommodate 90 four-wheelers and 88 two-wheelers. The second phase includes a new four-storey west side station building. It will have a separate approach road for entry and exit, lifts, escalators, an arrival lobby and railway offices.

Another highlight is the air concourse, a passenger walkway built above platforms at a height of +10.2 metres. It will feature 16 lifts, stairs, escalators, seating for 2,250 people and 60 shops.

HAMPI CHARIOT IN CUBBON PARK

A floral replica of Hampi stone chariot displayed at the flower show in Cubbon Park on Thursday. The 11-day 'Hoogala Habba 2025 is organised by the Horticulture Department and Cubbon Park Walkers Association. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

Working towards regrowing student visa, says Ontario Minister

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Government of Ontario is working towards improving the student visa situation in Canada, said Victor Anthony Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Government of Ontario, Canada,

Speaking to *DH* during his recent visit to Bengaluru, the minister said, "We're working very hard with our federal government. There has been a massive reduction in student enrollment and international student allowance. And it has really taken us aback and has changed the structure of our universities and colleges. We continue to consult with the federal government to regrow our student visas," he said.

However, there is "some way to go before a positive change is seen" in this department, he added.

He believes Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent meeting with the Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has brought a ray of hope. "There appears to be a newfound relationship, where our own prime minister, for the very first time, has said India is a reliable partner. That's a very profound statement. We're hoping that this could mean opening up some student visa allowances again. If you're going to have a comprehensive agreement between both countries, an economic partnership agreement, it should also include training of students," he said.

Victor Anthony Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Government of Ontario, Canada.

Bengaluru and Ontario complement each other, with both having a strong focus on tech and a rich talent pool, said the minister. "We have 400 AI companies, 85,000 AI employees in Ontario, and 1,800 AI masters enrolled right now. We have 86,000 STEM grads every year in Ontario. We're adding 20,500 this year alone. We are an excellent location for tech companies in Bengaluru to continue the development of their AI through our expertise," he elaborated.

US President Trump's aggressive approach, especially the H-1B visa changes, has provided Canada with a growing business opportunity, with global companies showing interest in establishing business in the country.

The minister also shared an interesting investment trend he has noticed in recent times. "What we're seeing is our pension funds being invested here in India, in Bengaluru too. Whether it's the public pension funds from our municipal or provincial, or federal employees or whether it's private pension funds, we're seeing a tremendous amount of investment here in India," he explained.

Drone survey deployed as police prep for New Year crowds

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru Central Police Division has commenced elaborate security preparations for the upcoming New Year's Eve celebrations, focusing heavily on crowd control in the Central Business District (CBD).

To effectively manage the anticipated overwhelming crowds on major streets, like MG Road, Brigade Road, Church Street, Residency Road, and RH Road, police are employing drone surveillance.

These drones are being used to conduct an aerial survey of the CBD, providing a bird's-eye view to identify potential crowd hotspots, narrow lanes, and bylanes. The exercise is a part of a comprehensive strategy covering safety, preparation, and public facilitation.

DCP Central Akshay M Hakay told DHs, "The crowd celebrates and enjoys in a particular manner, which should not be a problem to the general public." The police are set to announce specific traffic changes and restrictions soon to ensure smooth movement and public safety during the celebrations.

The high-tech surveillance aims to implement targeted and effective crowd management as the city prepares to ring in the New Year.

16 smartphones seized during inspection at central prison

BENGALURU, DHNS: A surprise inspection carried the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison during the early hours of Wednesday resulted in the seizure of 16 smartphones, along with accessories, besides 11 SIM cards, from the inmates.

In the FIR, Superintendent of Central Prison Paramesh H A has stated that the inspection was carried out in two phases — the first between 1am and 1.30am, and the second from 6am to 7.30am — under the supervision of jailer Sharanayya. The prison personnel found mobile phones concealed in bedsheets, inside pillows and mattresses.

The search was carried out in Security Block–03, Back Block–01, Room No 03 and Barrack–5, where phones of various brands were found and confiscated. The jail officials also found earphones, chargers and other accessories during the search.

One smartphone was found under the bed of a convicted inmate named Sagar alias Rakhibul Islam, while another inmate, Muniraju, had concealed a phone inside his pillow. Another device was also found concealed inside the inner wall near the bathroom of Room 5 in the 'B' barrack. Following the seizure, a case has been registered.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Karnataka Women Journalists' Association: Presentation of Sri Siddaramaiah Endowment Award to Sushila Subramanya and Nila M H; H N Nagamohanadas, Siddaramaiah, K V Prabhakar, Ayesha Khanum participate; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road; 10.30 am.

Department of Women and Child Development: 50 years of Integrated Child Development Programme; Siddaramaiah, D K Shivakumar, Lakshmi Hebbalkar, G Parameshwar and others take part; Palace Ground, 10.30 am.

AIOBC Regional Office: Inauguration of the regional office of All India OBC Railway Workers Association; Ashutosh K Singh, Nagalakshmi Choudhury and others participate; the regional office premises, 11.30 am.

Hazarat Tipu Sultan Committee: March to celebrate Tipu's birth anniversary; Marutinagar to Chikkabanavar; 2.30 pm.

CULTURE

Amareshwara Vijaya Nataka Mandali: Kuvempu's play 'Jalagara'; Vidyaniketan Public School, Sunkadakatte; 1.30 pm.

Anurag Kala Gurukula: Bharatanatya Rangapravesha by Harika A M; JSS Auditorium, 8th Block, Jayanagar; 5 pm.

Deepa School for Visually Challenged Children: Special lecture on Poornachandra Tejaswi's 'Annana Nenapu' by Ravikumar Bagi; school premises, Magadi Main Road; 5 pm.

The Bangalore City Institute: Songs from the films of actor Srinath; Institute premises, Basavanagudi; 6.30 pm.

Anavarana: K Y Narayanaswamy's play 'Varna Pallata'; Kalagarama, Mallattahalli; 7 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Vijaya Madhwa Sangha: 'Gita Sara' discourse by Harish Achar; Sangha premises, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	25.2°C
Minimum	16.7°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	59%
Sunset (Nov 28)	5:50 pm
Sunrise (Nov 29)	6:24 am
Moonrise	11:53 am
Moonset	11:48 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Man arrested for murder of 15-year-old girl

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kaggalipura police have arrested a 24-year-old man for killing a 15-year-old high school girl and dumping her body in an isolated place.

The accused, Appu alias Pappi, is a daily wage labourer from Thattaguppe in Kaggalipura.

Police said the incident took place on Wednesday night when the girl went out into the farm to attend a call of nature. Appu followed, and strangled the girl, before dumping her body. The girl's mother Savitramma filed a missing person complaint, and the police began a probe.

Inquiries revealed that the victim was staying with a cousin who was having an affair with Pappu. She was not very pleased with Pappu's frequent visits to call on her cousin, since he often came while she was studying. It was also found that the two cousins were often fighting over trivial issues. The victim reportedly asked Pappu to stay away from her cousin, which drove the accused into a rage, prompting him to kill her.

Delhi metro to develop customised data mgmt system for BMRCL

BENGALURU, DHNS

The system's major modules will cover aspects of both preventive and corrective maintenance, as well as additional modules to facilitate routine O&M activities. REPRESENTATIVE PIC

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will develop a customised software platform to manage the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) assets of Namma Metro, according to a high-ranking official.

The DMRC has floated tenders for the supply, installation, testing and commissioning of an Integrated Data Management System (IDMS) for Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

Explaining the significance of the initiative, a senior BMRCL official stated that the DMRC had developed its own IDMS based on years of experience. "The DMRC possesses extensive domain knowledge of O&M activities, with over 20 years of experience in the metro field. It also has strong expertise in software development and is considered a pioneer in this domain. The DMRC's ability to deliver both customised software — specifically tailored to meet the requirements of BMRCL was acknowledged, and it was decided to use it for BMRCL," he told *DH*, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The system's major modules will cover aspects of both preventive and corrective maintenance, as well as additional modules to facilitate routine O&M activities.

After discussions, Namma Metro and the DMRC opted to suitably customise a similar software for the BMRCL. The responsibility has also been given to the DMRC.

"The overall software development and system integration responsibilities are being handled by DMRC, considering their domain expertise and software development capabilities. Hardware components such as servers and network switches are being procured separately from the open market," the official added.

3 years on, technocrat to head agency behind Bengaluru suburban rail

BENGALURU, DHNS

A technocrat has been appointed to head K-RIDE, the government agency implementing the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP), after more than three years.

On Thursday, the Railway Board appointed Lakshman Singh, a 1966-batch Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) officer, as the managing director of Railway Infrastructure Development Company Karnataka (K-RIDE) on deputation for three years.

The appointment came two days after the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved his deputation.

Before his latest appointment, 55-year-old Singh was serving as Chief General Manager (Civil) at Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), handling the KR Pura-Hebbal section (11 km) of the Blue Line under Phase 2B.

Singh was deputed to the BMRCL in in 2024. Before that, he was Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM), Bengaluru.

This is the first time in over three years that a railway officer has been placed at the helm of K-RIDE. Amit Garg, also an IRSE officer, left K-RIDE in August 2022.

Since then, K-RIDE has had three MDs, all appointed by the state government with concurrent charge. The incumbent is Govinda Reddy, a 2013-batch Karnataka-cadre IAS officer. The top post at K-RIDE, a joint venture between the government of Karnataka and the railways, was a long-standing bone of contention.

Lakshman Singh

Karnataka, which holds a 51% stake in K-RIDE, has preferred appointing state-cadre IAS officers, while the railways pushed for appointing a technocrat, citing the project's technical challenges.

Minister of State for Railways V Somanna had told *DH* earlier that Karnataka had reluctantly agreed to the railways' request to appoint a technocrat as the MD.

The 149-km BSRP, which will have four corridors running along the city's railway network, is facing inordinate delays.

Groundwork began only on two corridors but came to a halt after L&T Ltd terminated its contract in July. K-RIDE recently re-tendered Corridor 2 (Mallige Line) and plans to refloat tenders for Corridor 4 in the coming weeks. No groundwork has begun on corridors 3 and 4. A 40-month public deadline set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi expired in October. The revised deadline is 2028.

Mercury plummets in Bengaluru, rain forecast over weekend

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru has gotten perceptibly colder in the last 15 days, with the city registering a significant dip in temperatures. Although nights were expected to get cooler from December, temperatures have dipped in Bengaluru both in the daytime and at night.

According to the data recorded by the India Meteorological department (IMD), the city recorded a minimum temperature of 16.7 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, nearly 1.6 degrees Celsius lower than the mean minimum temperature for Bengaluru in November.

The maximum temperature - 26.6 degrees Celsius - too was 0.8 degrees Celsius lower than the mean value for November.

'Influence of Easterly Waves'

"The city has also received some rain over the past 15 days. Hence, the temperature has also remained lower than normal," said C S Patil from IMD Bengaluru, attributing the climatic conditions in the city to the influence of Easterly Waves.

"It is cyclone season now, and there are low pressure systems and cyclones. Consequently, the weather conditions are changing," Patil told DH.

The city is also expected to receive moderate to heavy rainfall over the weekend, resulting in a further drop in mercury levels.

"The deep depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Sri Lanka coast has moved north-northwestwards and intensified into a cyclonic storm. As a result some parts of the city will receive moderate rainfall and many others will receive heavy rainfall over the weekend," Patil noted.

Winter by first week of December

However, winter is expected to set in by the first week of December. The mean minimum temperature for December is 16.4 degrees Celsius and the mean value for maximum temperature is 26.9 degrees Celsius.

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A V BHARATH GOWDA

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"I have lived in love and not in mere time".
- Rabindranath Tagore

VIEWING
29th November 2025 (Saturday), 7am - 10 am
Viewing will be held at his residence in Sadashivnagar, for those who wish to pay their respects.

CREMATION
29th November 2025 (Saturday), 11:30 am
Cremation will take place at Veeranjanaiah farm, Aluru village, Bengaluru 562 162

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Blind adulation on social media is a new concern, say experts

Parasocial is Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year. It refers to a one-sided attachment to strangers and also AI bots

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Bengalureans *Metrolife* spoke to were 'obsessed' with actor Shah Rukh Khan, besides businesswoman Nita Ambani, singer Dua Lipa, and film character Jesse Wallace. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Counselling psychologist Afifa Kauser was once consulted by a Bengaluru artiste grappling with career anxieties, body image concerns, disordered eating and shifting family dynamics. Over successive sessions, she noticed a troubling pattern. The client followed two rappers so closely on social media that he had "internalised" their life stories and political views, and repeated their phrases verbatim — a phenomenon known in psychology as introjection. The line between "self and celebrity" had blurred. Through Gestalt therapy and an intersectional lens, Afifa helped him reclaim a sense of self.

This case illustrates the extreme end of a parasocial relationship, a one-sided connection with a celebrity one has never met, a fictional character, or even an AI chatbot. Parasocial is Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year and, as per their website, it reflects the zeitgeist of 2025. While such connections were earlier facilitated by television, the access, intimacy and overexposure offered by the Internet have amplified the phenomenon. People are increasingly turning to individual personalities as authorities, treating them like close friends, family members or even cult leaders, the site notes.

Interest in the term surged in August when pop sensation Taylor Swift announced her engagement. The news polarised her fan base. For one side, it was a 'fairytale ending' after years of emotionally tracking her heartbreak. Others dismissed it as a 'PR romance'.

Help or harm?

Grace Maria Jochan, assistant professor of psychology, says parasocial connections are not inherently unhealthy. They can help introverted individuals express themselves or allow social groups to bond over shared interests. Today, such attachments can even extend to "causes", such as the recent Gen Z uprising in Nepal. "However, if the attachment begins to affect daily life (studies, work or relationships) or if you feel irritable over developments in the life of the figure you admire, it is time to seek help," she says. Bengaluru-based Ruby (name changed) loves K-pop band BTS but is "a bit upset that they support unethical luxury brands". The Hebbal resident says the band is otherwise known for social advocacy.

If the connection is marked by blind devotion, stalker-like behaviour or intrusive entitlement, that is another red flag, says Parinitha Shinde, assistant professor of communication and media studies and a new media scholar. She experienced this while teaching a class on the male gaze and female representation on screen. "I openly opposed influencer Andrew Tate's view that women should be subservient. His male fans were visibly exasperated and quoted his 'beliefs' verbatim." She sees a similar suspension of critical judgement among followers of podcasters with alt-right leanings, such as Joe Rogan. "Podcasts have become megaphones for singular viewpoints, stripped of the balance journalism brings. For listeners with similar predispositions, this amplifies bias," she says.

Trusting AI chatbots as confidants is equally worrying, say academics in the city. They have seen students turn to bots for relationship advice (sometimes uploading partner conversations for "analysis") and for coping with body shaming or the death of a family member. Many place greater trust in the anonymity of AI platforms than in college counsellors.

Ravinandan, assistant professor of journalism and whose PhD research focused on AI, flags "compliant responses" that AI bots provide. They praise before correcting users, which can reinforce biases. "Users keep prompting until the AI tells them what they want to hear. They blame the algorithm for 'wrong responses' rather than examining their own perspective. This is risky for women's autonomy, as men may ignore AI advice that challenges patriarchal views," he says.

Chasing perfection

Parasocial relationships stem from the human need to connect, and rising loneliness in the digital age may be intensifying this dependence. Afifa cautions against the "illusion of a relationship" these create. "Real relationships are complex and messy. They involve conflict and different worldviews. Parasocial bonds are built on one-sided loyalty, admiration and emotional investment," she explains. This may impair a person's ability to form real relationships, especially when they begin expecting the same perfection from those around them.

Sanam (name changed) is trapped in this ideal. The 25-year-old writer wants a partner like Jesse Wallace from the 'Before Trilogy' series, "someone who returns despite distance, time and differences". "People I date are disappointed by my expectations and I am disappointed they are not like Jesse," she says.

But these connections cut across age groups. Afifa points to research showing that children's habitual interaction with virtual assistants like Alexa and Siri can affect social-cognitive development.

PARASOCIAL V/S FANDOM

While Grace views fan culture and even limerence (an involuntary obsession paired with the desire for reciprocation) as subsets of the parasocial spectrum, Parinitha draws a distinction. "In fandoms, you revere someone with little expectation that they know you exist. In parasocial connections, the Internet makes them feel within reach, and you begin to believe the connection is reciprocal."

POPCORN

Labour pains

The government has come up with new labour codes, fixing working hours at a maximum of 48 hours a week. It is also offering flexibility—you can do it over six days or four days. If it's the latter, you work 12 hours a day. Those numbers are a relief for those who thought IT senior statesman N R Narayana Murthy's 70 hours-a-week code was in the offing. What the rules still aren't specifying is how much time we devote to getting AI to do our work, and how much to gossip, no?

Tribute to actor Vishnuvardhan

Many singers and actors are coming together to pay a tribute to Vishnuvardhan this weekend. The actor was posthumously honoured with the Karnataka Ratna title earlier this year. The event, titled 'Vishnu Vijaya', is conceptualised and presented by Guru, who heads the group Sound of Music. "On behalf of the entertainment fraternity, we also want to thank the government for conferring this honour on Vishnuvardhan," Guru told Metrolife. On November 30, 5 to 9 pm, Town Hall. Entry free.

Three podcasts with a B'luru focus

From Code to Culture
This podcast sheds light on Bengaluru's startups, infrastructure, push for adoption of AI and more. Some of the recent episodes were 'Bengaluru is at a breaking point. Can GBA save it?', 'Have you experienced Bengaluru's officegoers' rain? What's the story behind it?', and 'Fantastic vintage cars and where to find them'.

The podcast was launched by the Unboxing BLR Foundation last year and is hosted by Malini Goyal and Prashanth Prakash. Some guests who have been on the show include pharma entrepreneur Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, architect-urban designer Naresh Narasimhan, civic evangelist V Ravichandar, and entrepreneur-investor Nithin Kamath. The episodes last from 30 minutes to over an hour.
Where: YouTube and Spotify

The History of Bangalore
The series focuses on Bengaluru's past. Hosted by journalist-author Ramjee Chandran, it brings together storytelling and archival research.

The podcast releases episodes once every fortnight, varying in length from 20 to 30 minutes. How Bengaluru gots its name, how Kempeowda's ancestors came to the city, and the story behind the building of Pete have been explored in some episodes.
Where: Spotify, Amazon Music, YouTube, and Apple Podcasts.

BIC Talks
It features recordings of talks hosted at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. These include conversations around culture, history, public health, arts, environment, and climate. Around four to six episodes are uploaded every month, and they run between 30 and 75 minutes each. In recent episodes, the podcast has covered subjects like handlooms, public interest litigations, and climate crisis, and personalities like Gauri Lankesh and B R Ambedkar.
Where: Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

EVENTS

Music Fest
Sangeetha Bhushana M A Narasimhachar Music Foundation presents the 24th Annual Music Festival at Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi, this weekend. On November 28, 5.30 pm, awards will be given to Karnatik vocalist Mysore Nagamani Srinath, and Karnatik vocalist duo Bangalore Brothers, followed by a recital by the duo. A recital by Karnatik vocalist Sandeep Narayan on November 29, 6 pm, and a musical discourse by orator Dushyanth Sridhar on November 30, 6 pm will also be held. Entry free.

Film screening
National Gallery of Modern Art Bangalore is screening 'Ghatashraddha', at the museum on November 28, 5 pm. This will be followed by a talk by N Vidyashankar, artistic director of Bengaluru International Film Festival, and a Q&A session with the film's director Girish Kasaravalli. Entry free.

Orchestra
The South Asia Symphony Orchestra concert will be held at Prestige Centre for Peforming Arts, Konanakunte, on November 29, 7 pm. The programme will feature over 120 musicians, performing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and some songs of Raj Kapoor. Tickets online.

Fewer HIV patients than before, but stigma persists

Ahead of World AIDS Day on December 1, Metrolife spoke to NGOs caring for those infected

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Some NGOs in Bengaluru continue to support HIV-positive individuals despite what they describe as a lack of government funding. They also claim public awareness campaigns by the government have declined since the pandemic.

While the number of people living with HIV has reduced due to improved treatment, they say that stigma around the disease persists. These non-profits primarily support people from lower-income families, and help them access antiretroviral therapy (ART) provided by the government.

Metrolife looks at their initiatives. Raju Mathew founded Accept Society in 1999. Operating from a residential medical centre in Doddagubbi, the organisation has cared for over 5,000 people living with HIV. "For two decades we worked exclusively with HIV patients. In 2019, as treatment improved and cases declined, we began admitting anyone in need of medical care, including long-term and post-surgical patients," he says.

However, stigma persists. "Some medical professionals who wanted to work with us were stopped by their families as they were worried about getting infected," Mathew adds. The centre now admits about 300 patients annually, around 40% of whom are HIV-positive.

Dr Glory Alexander founded Asha Foundation in 1998 to support widows and children affected by HIV. Over time, it expanded to offer care and counselling to anyone impacted by the disease. The foundation runs a clinic three times a week, providing free ART. HIV tests for widows and children are conducted at no cost, while others have to pay a nominal fee.

A PMTCT counsellor of Asha Foundation counselling a new mother.

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) has been their key programme since 2003. "We support about 40 HIV-positive pregnant women every year and guide them through pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding," says Dr Glory, a general physician. "Over the last two decades, we have reduced transmission in our cohort from 45% to under 1%," she says.

The foundation also offers skills training, HIV education and peer support to affected adolescents and young adults through two annual residential camps. Despite progress, Dr Glory says low awareness remains a concern. "If a person is on ART and has an undetectable viral load, they cannot transmit HIV, even through unprotected sex," she explains.

Supporting children

Desire Society, which established its Bengaluru chapter in 2008, works exclusively with HIV-infected children. Located in Sakalavara, near Bannerghatta Road, it provides residential care to 30 children aged between six and 17.

"These children have either lost one or both parents to HIV, or their caregivers are in advanced stages of the disease," says vice president Subhash E M. "We provide food, nutritional supplements, shelter, schooling, ART medication, regular medical tests and psychosocial support to them," he adds.

Hennur-based Freedom Foundation, founded in 1992, works in the areas of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. Its CEO, Ashok Rao, says the organisation began a programme for children orphaned or affected by HIV in the mid-1990s.

"The children receive everything any child would at home — education, medical care including ART, and daily care — free of cost," he says. The foundation currently supports 42 children, 15 of whom live at the facility. Caregivers are usually HIV-positive women from marginalised backgrounds or extended family members. "They receive monthly ration kits, counselling and guidance on HIV care," Rao adds.

TO KNOW MORE OR DONATE

Freedom Foundation (thefreedomfoundation.org), Accept Society (94486 19619), Desire Society (95051 17777), Asha Foundation AIDS helpline (2354 3333 or 2354 2222; Monday to Friday, 9 am-5 pm).

Experts say handwriting and the right way to hold a pen are not taught early on.
PIC CREDIT: K C JANARDHAN

Cursive writing losing favour in city schools

Teachers say early exposure to digital devices has impacted students' ability and concentration when writing

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

The art of elegant cursive handwriting is fast disappearing from classrooms in Bengaluru.

Metrolife spoke to seven city-based handwriting centres. They stressed that cursive writing is crucial for young children. They said it helps improve hand-eye coordination, and children tend to memorise information better when they write something down than when they type on digital devices.

A tutor at a handwriting institute in Vijayanagar said students from classes 1 to 4 are increasingly struggling to write in a continuous flow. She attributes this to shrinking attention spans. A representative from a Nagdevanahalli-based centre added that it now takes months to train children to even begin writing in cursive.

Savitha K, a primary school teacher in Halasuru, says many children struggle to write cursive legibly despite teaching them repeatedly. She blames early exposure to digital devices and speech-to-text tools. "So we let them figure out their own writing style and help them improve it," she says.

Another teacher from the same school said parents often approach her for help with cursive writing, and that she recommends enrolling children in handwriting centres.

Suma, a trainer at Akshara Calligraphy and Handwriting Classes in Koramangala, observes that children struggle with cursive writing because they are not taught handwriting fundamentals correctly early on. "Once the basics are fixed, writing becomes easier and better," she says, adding that cursive helps children write faster by connecting letters.

However, handwriting and calligraphy expert K C Janardhan disagrees with the push for cursive writing in schools. He argues that it should not be imposed on students. "Today, we expect people to write about 60 words a minute, but legibly, most can manage only 30. How can we expect speed and clarity from a style designed to be written slowly?" he asks. He also questions why cursive is treated as the 'proper' writing style when many scripts — Japanese, Thai, Chinese, and Indian languages such as Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, and Sanskrit — use separate strokes.

Beyond cursive, handwriting itself is declining worldwide, according to reports. Yet Janardhan believes handwriting will never die as long as humans exist. He says it will only change with the medium, "from cave walls to paper, and now to screens and styli". A trainer from the Handwriting School of India in J P Nagar agrees and argues that "writing is the basis of learning".

GOT star visits B'luru to film video on water

In the video, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau visits three B'lureans working towards solving the city's water problems

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

S Vishwanath (second from left) tells Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (second from right) how recharge wells work.

Game of Thrones' actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau was in Bengaluru recently to film a documentary for an international agency. It features individuals who are working towards solving Bengaluru's water problems. The video is an episode in a series focusing on finding solutions for the world's environmental problems.

In Devanahalli, Coster-Waldau sees how a group of traditional well diggers or Mannu Vaddars is building a recharge well. These wells help direct water to shallow aquifers, which in turn helps improve groundwater levels. The project is coordinated by S Vishwanath of Biome Environmental Trust.

"The Mannu Vaddars have been digging wells for hundreds of years," Vishwanath says. India uses more water than the USA and China combined, he notes, adding that rainwater harvesting and groundwater rejuvenation are crucial to the city's water sustainability.

"Groundwater potential is 29,000 million litres, which can meet a town's water requirements," he points out. The team hopes to dig a million wells.

The shoot took one full day to complete and captured the team's latest project in Devanahalli. They were commissioned to build recharge wells by the town municipal council. "Devanahalli town requires 4 million litres of water per day and these wells will supply one-fourth of that demand," he said.

Vishwanath told *Metrolife* that recharge wells are already making a huge difference in the residential areas of Yelahanka, Vidyaranyapura, Basavanagudi, Jayanagar, Malleswaram and Sarjapura.

In the episode, Coster-Waldau also meets noted lake conservationist Anand Malligavad of Malligavad Foundation and Swapnil Shrivastav of Uravu Labs. The latter makes drinking water through a technology that absorbs moisture from air. They currently make 4,000 litres of water a day at their Jakkur facility.

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पहले मिल्क पाउडर प्लांट की आधारशिला
फूलो झानो आशीर्वाद अभियान से 40 हजार महिलाओं को करोड़ों रुपए की मदद
2 लाख 80 हजार से अधिक SHGs को ₹17,374 Cr क्रेडिट लिंकेज
हजारों स्टूडेंट्स को गुरुजी स्टूडेंट क्रेडिट कार्ड का लाभ
पलाश ब्रांड से ₹56.47 Cr का व्यापार

झारखण्ड 25 अनंत संभावनाओं की ओर

भगवान बिरसा मुंडा की 150वीं जयंती एवं रजत पर्व पर भव्य आयोजन
राजस्व निरीक्षक, स्नातकोत्तर प्रशिक्षित शिक्षक, सहायक शिक्षक, प्रयोगशाला सहायकों, स्नातक प्रशिक्षित शिक्षक, चिकित्सा पदाधिकारियों, विधि सहायक आदि अंतर्गत विभिन्न विभागों में हजारों नियुक्तियां
मुख्यमंत्री फेलोशिप योजना
खूंटी, चाईबासा एवं चांडिल में BAR COUNCIL BULIDING का शिलान्यास
मानकी मुंडा छात्रवृत्ति योजना
स्कूलों में STEM एवं SCIENCE लैब की स्थापना
राज्य में नए 800 MW बिजली का उत्पादन
इको टूरिज्म को बढ़ावा
4th SAAF CHAMPIONSHIP 2025 का आयोजन

हेमन्त सरकार के
प्रथम वर्षगांठ
पर चयनित हजारों अभ्यर्थियों का
नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण समारोह

28 नवंबर, 2025
अपराह्न 12:15 बजे से
मोरहाबादी मैदान, रांची

स्कैन करें और इस समारोह के सहभागी बनें!

अध्यक्षता
श्री हेमन्त सोरेन
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

सम्मानित अतिथि

श्री राधा कृष्ण किशोर
माननीय मंत्री

श्री दीपक बिरुवा
माननीय मंत्री

श्री चमरा लिण्डा
माननीय मंत्री

श्री संजय प्रसाद यादव
माननीय मंत्री

श्री इरफान अंसारी
माननीय मंत्री

श्री हफीजूल हसन
माननीय मंत्री

श्रीमती दीपिका पाण्डेय सिंह
माननीय मंत्री

श्री योगेन्द्र प्रसाद
माननीय मंत्री

श्री सुदिव्य कुमार
माननीय मंत्री

श्रीमती शिल्पी नेहा तिर्की
माननीय मंत्री

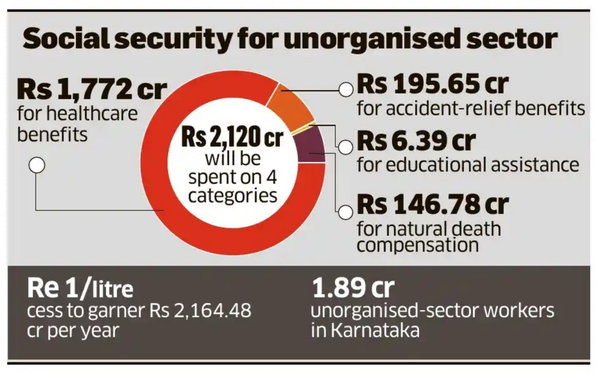
हेमन्त सोरेन
मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार

PR 367265 (IPRD)

Fuel cess: Labour dept eyes Rs 2.1k-cr welfare fund

Rs 2,120 crore to be spent on social security measures



SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The labour department has estimated a requirement of Rs 2,120 crore to provide social security benefits to unorganised-sector workers and proposed a fuel cess of Re 1 per litre to meet these expenses.

According to a document *DH* has accessed, this Rs 2,120 crore will be spent on four categories of social security. They are: Rs 1,772.02 crore for health benefits, Rs 195.65 crore for accident benefits, Rs 6.39 crore for educational assistance and Rs 146.78 crore for natural death compensation.

These categories are part of a pet project of Labour Minister Santosh Lad and will come under the aegis of the Karnataka State Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board.

As per estimates, the government is expected to collect Rs 2,164.48 crore through the Re 1/litre cess on petroleum products. The labour department has sent the proposal to the chief minister's office for approval.

A social security cess of Rs 2 per litre is being levied in Kerala.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India (GoI), estimates that there are 1.89 crore unorganised-sector workers in Karnataka. This includes 60 lakh construction workers and motor transport and related workers. The remaining 1.3 crore workers (62.02 lakh families) are supposed to be in other unorganised sectors.

Health security

Though health benefits include additional reimbursement up to Rs 10 lakh, 50% of the beneficiaries are estimated to be covered under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, which has a limit of Rs 5 lakh. Hence, the effective expenditure is expected to be Rs 1,500 crore, which increases to Rs 1,772.02 crore for 2025-26 if a 10-15% increase in costs is considered.

Accident relief

The department has estimated 3,250 accident compensation claims per year across three age groups (1,625 accidents in the 18-40 age group, 845 accidents in the 40-50 age group and 780 accidents in the 50-60 age group).

Funeral assistance

In 2023, 1.61 lakh unorganised sector workers are estimated to have died in Karnataka. Of this, 15,000 were deaths due to accidents, which come under the health insurance category.

The remaining 1.46 lakh cases, if Rs 10,000 is given to the family of each deceased person, an annual expenditure of Rs 146.78 crore is expected

Cabinet approves iron ore policy for non-major ports

Nothing retrospective, says minister H K Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS:

In a bid to bolster trade, the Cabinet on Thursday approved the Karnataka Non-Major Ports Iron Ore Handling Policy — 2025 covering export, import and trade of iron ore at the 13 non-major ports in the state.

The move aims to restart the import and export of iron ore from Karnataka, one of the major iron ore-producing states in the country. The 343.3 km-long coastline of Karnataka features one major port — New Mangalore Port Authority and 13 non-major ports — Karwar, Honnavar, Malpe, Belekeri, Manki, Padubidri, Keni, Bhatkal, Old Mangalore, Tadadi, Kundapura, Pavinakurve and Hangarkatta.

Though a government order in 2010 had prevented the export of iron ore from 10 non-major ports, the Supreme Court's judgment in 2022 granted permission to export Iron ore mined in Karnataka to other countries.

Following this, the Karnataka Maritime Board (KMB) has prepared the policy.

The policy aims to generate revenue for the state government through registration fees, licence fees (for allotment of land for handling iron ore), wharfage charges, Minimum Guarantee Throughput (MGT) deposits, security deposits, penalties for non-compliance and shortfalls, and a recurring pollution mitigation, safety and supervision fee of Rs 13 per ton of Cargo.

The move aims to restart the import and export of iron ore from Karnataka - one of the major iron ore-producing states in the country. DH FILE PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil said: "Nothing of this will be retrospective; everything is prospective. Whatever new clauses come in this policy will be prospective. We have taken care to that extent because there is a lot of litigation and reports of Lokayukta and so on."

Eligibility

As per the policy, which *DH* has accessed, the concerned exporter must pay a registration fee of Rs 10,000 to the Directorate of Mines and Geology.

As per the policy, land allotment will be made on the application of the party on a first-come-first-served basis. It will be provided to those having valid registration with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and an IE code having no previous dues with the port with authorisation from the custom authorities.

Other decisions

The Cabinet also approved the Karnataka State Haj Committee Rules, 2025. Every year, the Haj committee arranges camps in Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Mumbai, and Hyderabad for the Haj pilgrims selected by it. These rules are expected to systematise the committee's activities and make it more transparent.

The Cabinet decided to declare Mysuru Mahanagara Palike as the Bruhat Mysuru Mahanagara Palike, and also approved the Drugs and Cosmetics (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Karnataka Cine and Cultural Workers (Welfare Amendment) Act, 2025, and the Karnataka Judicial Services (Amendment) Rules, 2025.

Cabinet okays Rs 100 crore for landfill maintenance

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Cabinet, on Thursday, approved Rs 100 crore for operation and maintenance of landfill sites by the Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML).

According to BSWML officials, the funds are used to take up maintenance works at the landfill site in Mittaganahalli.

"There were many complaints of leachate leakage from the landfill sites. We will take up work to prevent such leakages," the official said. These works are important to ensure health and hygiene in the surrounding areas.

Residents of the surrounding villages had complained that the leakage of leachate had contaminated the groundwater and the leachate entering rajakaluve had also polluted the lakes in and around the landfill.

Man arrested for attacking an advocate in court hall

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Ulsoor Gate police have booked a 23-year-old man for assaulting an advocate in the court hall in City Civil Court. The accused has been identified as Darshan, a resident of Sampigehalli.

The police said that the injured Karthik K, a resident of Basavanagudi alleged in complaint that on Tuesday, around 11 am he was sitting along with four other advocates in the court hall to attend a case. Meanwhile, an unidentified person suddenly came and attacked him by hitting him on the face. The attack took place before the magistrate and the accused was immediately handed over to Ulsoor Gate police.

A senior police officer said that Darshan was involved in a petty case and he was under observation in rehabilitation centre. He had come to the court to attend a case and immediately attacked the advocate.

Speaking to *DH*, the advocate Karthik said, "I had not seen him earlier and he is not related to any of my case. I was shocked about the incident and immediately went to a nearby hospital for the treatment and later filed a case with the police."

Senior Citizen Act: Tribunal can order eviction in compelling case, says HC

BENGALURU, DHNS

A tribunal under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act can justifiably pass an eviction order, only in a compelling circumstance, where the protection, dignity and welfare of a senior citizen so demand, the Dharwad bench of the high court has said in a recent judgement.

Justice M Nagaprasanna said this while upholding the order passed by Assistant Commissioner of Ballari, ordering eviction of a daughter-in-law, based on a complaint filed by the mother-in-law.

After the death of her husband, the daughter-in-law's relationship with her mother-in-law had turned sour. The mother-in-law was forced to shift to an outhouse. The mother-in-law then approached the legal cell, who in turn submitted a petition before the Assistant Commissioner by registering a complaint.

On June 17, 2025, the Assistant Commissioner passed an eviction order against the daughter-in-law and her children to vacate the house in her possession at Siddarth Nagar, Ballari city.

The daughter-in-law challenged this order before the high court contending that the Assistant Commissioner does not have the jurisdiction to pass an eviction order while entertaining a petition filed by a senior citizen under Section 23 of the Act.

On the other hand, the mother-in-law argued that her son had passed away about eight years ago and thereafter, the daughter-in-law had been living in Andhra Pradesh along with her children.

The court perused various judgements on the question of power to pass eviction orders under the Act.

"The Senior Citizens Act does not in express terms contemplate a general power to initiate eviction against an occupant of the premises owned, by or belonging to a senior citizen. It is only in a compelling circumstance, qua the facts obtained in every case, where the protection, dignity and welfare of a senior citizen so demand, that the Tribunal by justifiably pass an eviction order. The jurisdiction is extraordinary to be invoked where rights of the elderly are to be protected," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

Dignified access denied

The court further said, "The senior citizen in the case at hand has been housed in the outhouse, depriving the senior citizen of dignified access to her own home, as the house is in the possession of the petitioner, who does not reside in the said premises. The petitioner, having shifted residence to Andhra Pradesh after her husband's demise, cannot insist on retaining the premises on the basis of frayed relationship with the senior citizen."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase all that piece and parcel of lands bearing (a) Survey No. 48/2A measuring 1 Acre 8 ½ Guntas, inclusive of ½ Gunta kharab **("Item No.1")**, (b) Survey No. 48/2B measuring 3 Guntas **("Item No.2")** and (c) Survey No. 48/3 measuring 1 Acre 8 ½ Guntas, inclusive of ½ Gunta kharab **("Item No.3")** all situated at Acharalahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District together measuring 2 Acres 20 Guntas, inclusive of 1 Gunta of kharab, which are more fully set out in the Schedule below and hereinafter referred to as "**Schedule Properties**" from its present owners (a) V. Muniraju, V. Krishna, V. Venkatachalapathy, V. Nanjamma, Munivenkatamma, Devaki, V. Nagaraju and V. Srinivas all children of late Venkataswamy, (b) Lakshmamma, Shankarappa, Dhanalakshmi, Yashoda and Prakash wife and children of late Krishnappa and (c) Saroja, Manjula, Srinivas, Lalitha and Govinda all children of late Narayanaswamy, **("Owners")**.

Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Properties or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the Schedule Properties or the documents thereof or against the Owners or objecting to such transaction with our clients, should write to the undersigned within **ten (10) days** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to Schedule Properties or any part thereof, after which period our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of lands with regard to the survey numbers mentioned in Item No.1 to 3 herein below, all situated at **Acharalahalli Village, Tubagere Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,** which are bounded as follows:

Item Nos.	Sy. No.	Total Extent A	Total Extent G	Boundaries East by	West by	North by	South by
1	48/2A	01	08 ½	Survey No. 47/1A & 1B	Survey No. 48/1A, 1B & 1C	Survey No. 48/3;	Survey No. 47;
2	48/2B	00	03	Survey No. 48/3;	Gramatana;	Survey No. 1/1A	Gramatana & Survey No. 48/3;
3	48/3	01	08 ½	Survey Nos. 47/1A & 45/1	Survey No. 48/2B & Gramatana;	Survey No.1/1A, 1B & 1C	Survey Nos. 48/1A & 48/2A;

(Sunitha. R) Advocate
CMS INDUSLAW,
No.101, 1st Floor, Embassy Classic, #11, Vittal Mallya Road,
Bangalore -560 001, Phone No.: +91-80- 4072 6600

Date: 28.11.2025
Place : Bengaluru

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum-1 to Tender notice No. 21/2025/SBC Dated. 24.10.2025 only for Tender No. L8256690 Tender No.L8255384B is opened.

Description of work	Qty.
Spares of CUMMINS	29 Nos.

Due Date of Closing

Existing	Revised
24.11.2025	08.12.2025 (10:30 AM)

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Material Manager/ Bengaluru
PUB/684/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, डालटनगंज

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा निर्गत कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना, जिसका पी0आर0 नं0–PR 366273 Building(25-26).D है पर NIQ के कंडिका **(7)** में अंकित **Daltonganj, District.** के जगह पर **Ranchi/Daltonganj District.** पढ़ा जाय।

शेश शर्ते यथावत रहेंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
PR 367213 District(25-26)#D भवन प्रमण्डल, डालटनगंज

Directorate of Tourism,
Department of Tourism, Art Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs,
Govt. of Jharkhand, MDI Building, 2nd Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
GSTIN-20RCHD00786C1D4
Phone:(0651)2400493, email:dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com,
Web:https://tourism.jharkhand.gov.in

Short e-Tender Notice

e-Tender No.: Tour/Dir/Pub./18/2025-1092/ Ranchi **Date :- 27.11.2025**

Online (e-Tender) for Selection of Online Travel Management Platform (OTMP) for Digital Promotion of Jharkhand Tourism in Pan India & Abroad. Jharkhand Tourism invites reputed agencies with relevant experience in digital marketing, tourism promotion, and online branding to participate in this tender.

NIT No.	Name of the works	Estimated cost (in Rs.) Including GST and other taxes as applicable	Earnest money to be deposited (in Rs.)	Time of completion of work
	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Online Travel Management Platform OTMP for Digital Promotion of Jharkhand Tourism.	2,00,00,000	4,00,000	1 years
Availability of tender documents on website			From 28/11/2025 (Friday) from 05:00 PM	
Last date and time for uploading of e-tender			Up to 12/12/2025 (Friday) at 3:00 PM	
Pre-bid Meeting, Google Meet joining info Video call link: https://meet.google.com/iro-pnzh-cyx (For any query regarding RFP, kindly mail us before Pre-bid date and time to – dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com)			04/12/2025 (Thursday) at 01:00 PM	
Date and time for opening of Tender (Technical)			15/12/2025 (Monday) at 04:00 PM	
Date and time for opening of Tender Part-II (Financial)			will be communicated later on	
Tendering officer and address for communication			Director, Directorate of Tourism, MDI Building, 2nd Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004	

1. e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, Tender specification, etc. can be downloaded from website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. Any details required in the regard can also be procured from the office of the undersigned (0651-2400493) during office hours. NIC helpline no. is 0651-2400178.
2. The bids will be received only through electronic tendering mode.
3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services while uploading the bid. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.
4. Bidders must submit a copy of the UTR/reference number as proof of online payment of the tender fee and EMD, as mentioned in the NIT, before the specified cutoff date and time. The details of the finally uploaded BOQ, EMD, and payment instruments (DD/Cheque, etc.) must exactly match the details submitted online (scanned copies); any discrepancies will result in the bid being rejected. Additionally, all bidders are required to submit a hard copy of technical documents of the tender document to the Directorate of Tourism, Govt. of Jharkhand prior to the tender opening date as specified above.

Sd/-
PR 367242 Tourism, Art Culture Sports And Youth Affairs (25-26).D Director,Tourism

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tenders against open tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E.Railway, Chakradharpur for & on behalf of the President of India for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Sl. No. & Tender Notice No.; Name of work; Tender value; EMD: (1) CKP-CENTRAL-25-26-50, dated 26.11.2025;** Chakradharpur – Construction of the toilet complex for the control office; ₹ 29,83,037.80; ₹ 59,700/-. **(2) CKP-EAST-25-26-43, dated 26.11.2025;** (I) Chakradharpur Division – 35197 Meter of Cess Repair work between Tatanagar-Aunlajori and Aunlajori-Badampahar under the Jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer (East)/Chakradharpur. (II) Cutting of cess, repairing of cess and construction of side drain between section Tatanagar - Asanboni under jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/I/Tatanagar. (III) Cutting of Cess, repairing of cess and construction of side drain under jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer-II-Tatanagar; ₹ 7,44,09,043.72; ₹ 5,22,100/-. **Cost of Tender Form :** 0.00 for both. **Date of Opening :** 17.12.2025 for sl. no. 1 and 19.12.2025 for sl. no. 2. The tender can be viewed at Web site **http://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. **Note :** e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority–Railway Board's letter No. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020). **(PR-890)**

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM- 02, Date: 20.11.2025

Tender No.: JBP-PROJECT-EPC-2025-01 DATED: 25.10.2025

1. RFP clause no. 2.2.2.4 (iii), 2.2.2.5 (ii) and EPC agreement sr. no. 14, 21 of para 3.16, para 3.2.1 have been modified, which have been uploaded in the documents attached page of NIT no- JBP-PROJECT-EPC-2025-01 dtd. 25.10.2025. **2.** Reply of pre bid query held on 11.11.2025 hrs raised by bidders have been uploaded on IREPS of present tender. Rest items shall remain same and unaltered.

(SD.)
Dy.CEE/P/JBP

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

CORRIGENDUM-1 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2025/OCT/04 DATED: 24-10-2025

Corrigendum-1 has been issued against **Tender No. CE/CON/KJG/MIS/2025/01.** For details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/Con/Meghalaya Project/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No.B/TRD. 2025-26/29 Dt: 20.11.2025

The undersigned behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work

Item of Work	Approx. Value
Repair & overhauling	Rs.35,30,504.13/-

of Cummins make Engine model NTA 855 R-TW-42 (ESN No. 25389401).

Period of completion : 60 Days.

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 12.12.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Bengaluru
PUB/682/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

Southern Railway

Tender Notice

E-Tenders are Invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem-636005 for the following work:

Sl No.	Description	Description
1.	Tender Notice Number and date	**GEM/2025/B/6926271 Dt.25.11.2025**
2.	Name of Work	Mechanized Cleaning and Watering of Primary / Secondary Maintenance Trains (Daily Cleaning & Intensive Cleaning)-(Manpower Based Contract) & Cleaning and Watering of Coaches of Platform Turn Round Trains & other End Attention Trains (Manpower Based Contract) & on Board Housekeeping Services in Trains at Coimbatore Coaching Depot (Manpower Based Contract) & Cleaning of Depot Premises Covering 44,350 Sq.M (Outcome Based Contract)
3.	Estimate Value	Rs. 46,91,55,621.90
4.	Tender Closing date and Time	17-12-2025 at 14:00:00 Hrs
5.	Tender Opening date and Time	17-12-2025 at 14:30:00 Hrs
6.	Web address	**http://www.gem.gov.in**

The Tender has been uploaded on the GeM portal **http://www.gem.gov.in** on 25.11.2025 **As Custom Bid.**

The firms registered in GeM Portal are only eligible to participate in this tender. Complete details of the above tenders are given on the GeM portal **"www.germ.gov.in".**

For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"www.gem.gov.in".**

For Details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal **"www.gem.gov.in"**

DME/EnHM/FRT/SA, Southern Railway, Salem

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. SWRW-RSP-LC22-ROB-02 Dated: 21.11.2025

The undersigned behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work

Item of Work	Approx. Value
Proposed Construction of 2 lane ROB at Km: 33/700-800 in lieu of LC No.22 between Chitradurga-Balenahalli stations of Chikkajajur-Rayadurg section-Mysuru Division.	Rs. 32,51,54,157.10/-

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 15.12.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) Road Safety Projects, Hubballi
PUB/680/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No. ERWK-MGP-ICFBS-25. dated 26.11.2025. Chief Works Manager, Eastern Railway Workshop, Kanchrapara, North 24 Parganas, Pin-743145, invites e-tender for the following work: **Name of work :** Strengthening of Bogie Frame of ICF Coaches as per Drawing CG-17066 alt. 4 or latest with supply of material to be carried out at shop no. 4 of Loco Complex/Kanchrapara Workshop through Open Tender. **Tender Value :** Rs. 93,54,240/-. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 1,87,100/-, **Cost of tender Document :** 0, **Date and time of closing of tender:** 17.12.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Tender document and complete details available at website **www.ireps.gov.in**

MISC-306/2025-26

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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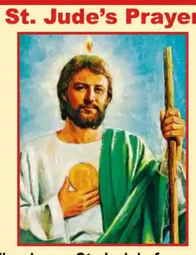
Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving
St. Jude's Prayer



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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-Tender

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 24/11/2025. The following **E-Tenders** can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply**. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/ Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or SMM/M, 9163340726. **Office Address: Office of The PCMM /CLW/Chittaranjan. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST)** are as follows : **[1]; 75253854E;** HEX Head Bolt For WAG-9HC AS PER SPECN. NO. IS: 1364 S-8.8 GR-A TO IS:1367 (As per Set Details attached.) [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **541.00 Set**; 229420.00; **15/12/2025 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75254177;** Fibre Glass Insulation Kit For Flat cab of WAG-9HC Twin Locomotives as per Specn: CLW/MS/3/015 Alt.7 or Latest. Drg No. as per Category Book R/9/0177 (Set Details attached) [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **396.00 Set**; 110890.00; **19/12/2025 at 11:00 AM. [3]; 75254173;** Small fabricated Components for Fabrication Shop for WAG-9HC loco as per Set Details attached. [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **425.00 Set**; 172610.00; **19/12/2025 at 11:00 AM. [4]; 75254175;** Aluminium Perforated sheets, Flats & Trim Angles For Flat Cab of WAG-9HC Twin Locomotives as per Drg.No. As per category No. T/9/0054 specn: CLW/MS/3/072 Alt.9 or Latest, CLW/MS/3/075 Alt.8 or Latest & CLW/MS/3/074 Alt.13 or Latest. [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **396.00 Set**; 148970.00; **17/12/2025 at 11:00 AM.**

[PR4/252] PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client proposes to transact with the lands measuring an extent of about 4 acres 31 guntas comprised in Survey No.56 of Hosa Hudya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk which is more fully described in the 'Schedule' herein below and hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property" from its owners, Mohamed Amiruddin Ajmal, Mohammed Badruddin Ajmal and Hasna Begum.

If any person/s, entity, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) has or claims any right, title, interest, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made together with supporting documents within fifteen (15) days from the date of this notice, failing which such claims shall be considered to have been waived and/or given up and my client shall proceed to complete the purchase in respect of the Schedule Property. Objections and/or claims received after the above period shall neither be entertained nor be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE Description of the Schedule Property:

All that piece and parcel of the lands measuring an extent of about 4 acres 31 guntas comprised in Survey No.56 of Hosa Hudya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk which is bounded as follows:

East by:	Lands comprised in Survey Nos.55 & 54 of Hosa Hudya Village;
West by:	Lands comprised in Survey Nos.57 & 58 of Hosa Hudya Village;
North by:	Lands comprised in Survey Nos.58, 53 & 54 of Hosa Hudya Village;
South by:	Village Boundary of Kadathanamalle Village.

Arvind Raghavan, Advocate
No.48, Ishita, 2nd Main Road,
Vyalikaval, Bangalore-560003.
E: arvind_ncsr@yahoo.com
Place: Bangalore Date: 28/11/2025

Crop loss: 14 lakh farmers get Rs 1,033 crore aid

Central team to visit state to assess crop damage: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday initiated the payment of an additional input subsidy of Rs 1,033.60 crore to 14.24 lakh farmers who suffered crop losses due to heavy rainfall during the monsoon this year.

Farmers have already received Rs 1,218.03 crore as per State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) norms, the government said.

As a top-up to help flood-hit farmers, the government hiked input subsidy from Rs 8,500 to Rs 17,000 per hectare for rain-dependent crops, Rs 17,000 to Rs 25,500 for irrigated crops and Rs 22,500 to Rs 31,000 for multi-year crops.

Siddaramaiah released Rs 1,033.60 crore to deputy commissioners, who will trigger payments to farmers via direct benefit transfer (DBT). This will benefit 14.24 lakh farmers in 27 districts.

"During monsoon, sowing was done on 82.56 lakh hectares, which was a record. However, due to heavy rainfall between June and September,

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah releases Rs 1,033.60 crore to deputy commissioners, who will trigger payments to farmers via direct benefit transfer, in Bengaluru on Thursday.

there were crop losses on 14.58 lakh hectares. The crop loss is estimated at Rs 10,748 crore," Siddaramaiah said.

Crops lost include tur dal (5.36 lakh hectares), green gram (2.53 lakh hectares), cotton (2.68 lakh hectares) and maize (1.21 lakh hectares), Siddaramaiah said.

Siddaramaiah said he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 17 and sought financial aid - Rs 614.90 crore towards input subsidy and Rs 1,521.67 crore for recovery and reconstruction of damaged assets.

"An inter-ministerial central team (IMCT) has been formed. We expect the IMCT to visit the state soon. The government is hopeful that the state will soon get its due in a legal and just manner," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said.

"When the state faced drought in 2023-24, the government submitted a memorandum and we met the PM and the union home minister. When we did not get any relief, the Karnataka government, for the first time in the country, went to the Supreme Court to wage a legal fight," Gowda said. "We hope such a situation won't arise this time."

REVA University holds its 10th convocation

Anjana P receives the gold medal for securing first rank in Bachelor of Arts (Performing Arts, English and Psychology) from Dr P Shyama Raju, Chancellor, REVA University, in the presence of Justice (Retd) Shivaraj V Patil, Supreme Court of India, at the university's 10th convocation yesterday.

REVA University held its 10th Annual Convocation yesterday, celebrating the academic accomplishments of 4,679 graduates, comprising 3,408 undergraduates, 1,194 postgraduates and 77 Ph.D. scholars. They were awarded their degrees formally. In addition, 70 exceptional students were honoured with gold medals in recognition of their exemplary academic performance. Students, parents, faculty and members of the REVA community attended.

Justice (Retd) Shivaraj V Patil, Supreme Court of India, graced the occasion as chief guest and delivered an inspiring convocation address. He urged the graduating students to carry with them the spirit of enquiry through "three questions - what next, what else and what more". These questions cultivate curiosity, ambition and continuous improvement - qualities essential for success in an evolving world, he said, encouraging graduates to let their actions become a testament to their service, integrity and contribution to society.

Extending his heartfelt congratulations, Dr P Shyama Raju, Chancellor, REVA University, said he was proud of the students emerging as confident leaders and responsible citizens. "At REVA, education is not just about obtaining a degree - it is about learning lessons for life," he said. Highlighting the university's guiding philosophy, 'educate to enterprise', he spoke on REVA's commitment to nurturing innovators, entrepreneurs and professionals capable of shaping the future.

Dr Shyama Raju also commended the role of faculty and mentors in instilling discipline, human values and resilience among students. He encouraged the graduates to carry forward REVA's ethos and serve as ambassadors of the university. "You are now the torchbearers of knowledge and values. As alumni, I hope you continue to inspire future generations and contribute to building a better society," he added.

REVA University's Pro Chancellor Umesh S Raju, Vice Chancellor Dr Sanjay R Chitnis, Registrar Dr M Dhanamjaya and Registrar (Evaluation) Dr Beena G, along with trustees, members of the Board of Governors, Board of Management, Academic Council, donors of REVA Endowment Gold Medals and faculty attended the convocation.

Students of engineering, architecture, commerce, technology, law, management, design, liberal arts, performing arts & Indic studies, social sciences, allied health sciences and applied sciences received degrees.

Curated by DH Brandspot

BWSSB offers one-time dues settlement

BWSSB, from Page 1

Senior BWSSB officials said the proposal was submitted since the BWSSB was struggling to recover these dues which have accumulated over the years.

"We have been issuing notices and trying to recover the dues. However, not many are receptive since the dues, along with penalty and interest accumulated over the years, would be huge. Hence, if we waive penalty and interest, the dues may reduce, motivating them to pay up," a senior BWSSB official said.

Another official said they could not cut the water connections since it was a basic necessity and many establishments took advantage of this. "Since this would inconvenience the public who visit these establishments, we could not disconnect supply and as a result, many of them continue to default payments," the official said.

PM Modi to attend Gita recital event at Udupi Krishna Mutt today

His maiden visit to temple town advanced by 40 mins

MANJUSHREE G NAIK
UDUPI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Udupi itinerary has undergone significant changes, with the Prime Minister now expected to arrive 40 minutes earlier than originally planned on Friday.

According to the revised itinerary, Modi will land at Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) and reach Adi Udupi helipad by 11 am.

He will then take part in a road show from 11 am to 11.30 am, travelling through arterial roads before heading to Sri Krishna mutt. Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive at the mutt soon after the road show and will depart from Udupi at 1 pm, informed Udupi Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar. In view of the VVIP visit, security had been heightened across the district. On Thursday morning, security forces and state police conducted an extensive rehearsal covering the Adi Udupi helipad, the road show route, Sri Krishna mutt and the public meeting venue.

Members of Udupi-based 'Sand Theme' create a sand sculpture welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Lakshakantha Gita recitation programme in Udupi, scheduled for Friday, at Malpe beach on Thursday.

Around 20–30 vehicles were used for the mock drill and traffic was temporarily stopped along the Adi Udupi–Bannanje–City Bus Stand–Kalsanka stretch to facilitate the exercise. Minor changes had been made to PM's route and the layout of the programme stage, officials said. With police deployment intensified throughout the city, checks and area inspections were conducted throughout the day to ensure a smooth visit.

PM tweets

PM on his X handle wrote; "I am honoured to be visiting Sri Krishna mutt in Udupi to take part in the Laksha Kantha Gita Parayana programme on Friday. This is a special gathering that brings together people from different sections of society for a recital of the Gita. This mutt has a very special significance in our cultural life. Inspired by Sri Madhvacharya, it has been at the forefront of serving society."

War of the 'word': Siddu's veiled tweet dig at DKS

Siddaramaiah, from Page 1

Siddaramaiah said the five flagship 'guarantee' schemes were implemented "from the very first month of forming the government" and this was done "not in words, but on the ground".

He highlighted that women have taken 600 crore free bus rides through the Shakti scheme, 1.24 crore women-led families getting money under Gruha Lakshmi, three lakh youth getting Yuva Nidhi unemployment allowance, 4.08 crore citizens getting free Anna Bhagya rice and 1.64 crore families receiving free Gruha Jyoti electricity.

The CM said he had a 95% delivery of promises by fulfilling 157 of 165 manifesto items in his first term (2013-18). "In this term, 243+ promises out of 593 are already completed and every remaining promise will be fulfilled with commitment, credibility and care," he said.

"The mandate given by the people of Karnataka is not a moment, but a responsibility that lasts five full years. The Congress party, including me, is walking the talk for our people with compassion, consistency, and courage," Siddaramaiah said. "Our word to Karnataka is not a slogan, it means the world to us."

Smugglers turn to air travellers to traffic hydroponic ganja

Ganja, from Page 1

Over the past two financial years, customs has arrested 21 people, including two Nepali nationals, linked to these trafficking attempts. Many of those detained were youngsters lured by online recruiters offering free trips, accommodation and modest financial rewards in exchange for carrying what they believed were innocuous consumer goods. One particular case highlighted the sophistication with which traffickers now operate. Customs officers intercepted a passenger arriving from Bangkok with what appeared to be a brand new water heater. On closer examination, the appliance was found to have been professionally dismantled and hollowed out to create a hidden compartment. Inside, officers discovered 84 vacuum-sealed packets of hydroponic ganja, each tightly compressed into brick form and layered with multiple plastic wrappings to suppress the characteristic strong odour of high-THC cannabis. The concealment was executed with remarkable precision as the heater's reassembled structure, weight, thermocol padding and factory-style taping, complete with markings of a reputed brand, gave no indication of tampering.

The passenger later confessed that he had been offered Rs 25,000 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Bangkok by an intermediary for transporting what he was told was a household appliance. Although hydroponically grown ganja emits a distinct odour, traffickers have adapted by layering vacuum seals and compressing the material densely, making it appear unremarkable on standard X-ray scans.

"For customs officers, this combination of smell masking and visual camouflage has made detection increasingly difficult. Interdiction now relies heavily on intelligence-based targeting, behavioural analysis, travel pattern scrutiny and inter-agency coordination," another senior officer told *DH*.

Customs officials noted that many seizures at RGIA were triggered not by scanning alerts but by subtle cues observed during passenger profiling such as inconsistent answers during questioning, discrepancies in travel history or mismatches between the stated purpose of travel, their packing patterns and contents of their baggage.

SC bats for autonomous regulator for online content

Autonomous, from Page 1

The bench said the question which is troubling it is "where the content is perceived, let us say anti-national". "Where content is perceived as disruptive of societal normalcy... Will there be a self-regulating responsibility of the intermediaries to curate those materials and not permit circulation?" the bench asked.

"The difficulty we are facing is the response time. Because once a scurrilous material is uploaded by the time the platform reacts, it is viral. It has millions of viewership. How do you plug that gap?" it further asked. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for a party, however, asked: "Somebody writing an academic piece about the history of dispute regarding a territory, whether Sikkim was rightly annexed or not, will that be regarded as anti-national?"

Responding to this, the court said: "There is an autonomous body created. Let that person go and prove that my content right... there can be a mechanism."

The court, however, said: "The fundamental right to speech that has to be respected and protected, and there is no question of tinkering with that, but at the same time, the society and innocent people, children, they too have right, and their right is also fundamental right. We are only balancing both fundamental rights."

Bhushan said the word 'anti-national' is vague and the same issue was discussed threadbare in the Shreya Singhal case with reference to laws in the United State and the United Kingdom.

"But if you do not have such a thing (autonomous body) and you allow everything to be aired or telecast, then subsequently what will you do? Do we expect these innocent people to file defamation cases," the bench asked.

He mentioned his stand against Covid-19 vaccine and that he was labelled somebody who was spreading vaccine skepticism. The court said nobody disputed that dissent is a part of healthy democracy. "Writing against some government regulation is not a difficulty. Not a serious issue. Dissent is always a part of a healthy democracy. Nobody disputes all these things, and the problem arises when you put something on YouTube or any other channel, and there are millions who are victimised. They do not have a voice, and they do not have a platform. By the time they rush to the court, damage is done," it said. The court has fixed the matter for further consideration after four weeks.

Supreme Court suggests law to protect dignity of disabled

Disabled, from Page 1

The court was dealing with a writ petition filed by Cure SMA Foundation after the comedians mocked a person with physical disabilities in a video.

"We are quite sure that if respondents are repentant and show their sincerity and commitment to the cause, the specially abled persons who have made landmark achievements in life will also accept coming on the platforms for the purpose of wider publicity in the cause. We hope and expect that such a few memorable events will take place before we hear the matter on the next date," the bench said.

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, appearing for Cure SMA, handed over a brief note depicting the success stories of those about whom undesirable and avoidable YouTube shows were held by some of the respondents. The court said that it has been rightly suggested that there should be a dedicated fund/corpus that may be created by the ministry concerned, or if it is already created, the same can be given wide publicity, inviting corporate entities and individuals to generously donate in that fund which is exclusively meant for the treatment of the specially abled persons, like those suffering from SMA.

The plea sought action against the online content that violated the right to life and dignity of persons with disability.

The bench noted that in pursuance of the earlier orders, the respondents Raina, Vipul Goyal, Balraj Paramjeet Singh Ghai, Sonali Thakar aka Sonali Aditya Desai and Nishant Jagdish Tanwar volunteered to hold events to generate funds for the cause.

The bench added that they have also volunteered to organise at least two events in a month to generate funds for the corpus and they also sought permission of this court to invite the persons who have success stories, the details of which are brought on record by the counsel.

Forest dept stares at losing 532 acre land worth Rs 30k crore

Forest land, from Page 1

The letter states that the government advocate could not verify the "contents" of Gowda's petition and that he later came to know about the land's status as a reserved forest. Notably, Yoganna had withdrawn his earlier recommendation that it was not a fit case for appeal.

Out of the 532 acres, except for the 15 acres in survey number 48, the remaining 517 acres of reserved forest land are part of the 1,382 acre 18 gunta of Badamanavarte Kaval (BM Kaval) State Forest notified on December 14, 1935. With the surrounding land gaining high realty value, the forest department has been hard pressed to conserve it.

Gowda's writ petition, filed through advocate Ramesha H E, stated that the Special Deputy Commissioner for Inam Abolition, Hassan Division, had granted the land in Bengaluru as per the document dated December 20, 1973, and sought occupation rights under the Inam Abolition Act.

Genuineness doubted

Stating that he had approached the revenue authorities to get the land documents in his name, the petitioner questioned an order of the Benglauru deputy commissioner who doubted the genuineness of the land grant and other papers.

Gowda claimed that he deposited Rs 10,640 "premium revenue amount" to Hassan Division and produced a receipt. Further, he alleged that the forest department encroached on the 532 acre 15 gunta land and asked him to pay Rs 4.25 lakh towards "teak wood, saguvani and other varieties of forest plants" they had planted in the area. Stating that his name had been included in land records (RTCs) in the period between 1974 and 1981, Gowda claimed that after the "encroachment" by the forest department, his name was dropped though the "deputy conservator of forest, Hassan" had issued a no-objection certificate in April 1984 and the special deputy commissioner had also recognised his rights.

Curious saga of the case

As per the high court website, the Writ Petition 25067 OF 2025 was filed on August 13. Under the daily orders, on August 23, the Registrar (Infrastructure and Maintenance) states "Comply during the course of the day". It was listed on August 30 as serial number 43 and it was disposed of on the same day. However, the website showed that the same petition's next hearing was listed for September 1.

The order directs the tahsildar, Bangalore South taluk, to verify whether Gowda's name was recorded in revenue records and check his occupancy rights.

"The tahsildar shall act accordingly and pass necessary orders to enter the name of the petitioner in the revenue records, as expeditiously as possible and at any rate within a period of three months from the date of the receipt of the copy of this order," says the order uploaded on the HC website. The order then goes on to state that "the learned Additional Government Advocate is permitted to file a memo of appearance within a period of four weeks from today".

In the forest department, officials were unaware of the order till Wednesday night.

"There are cases where we get notice from the high court two weeks after a petition is filed. Here, the judgment itself was delivered in 17 days. We didn't get the order till Wednesday. Perusal of the petition indicates that some of the documents are forged," an official said.

A senior forest officer said they got wind of the development when someone started asking for legal opinion to purchase one of the parcels claimed by Gowda. "When asked on what basis they were trying to purchase the land, somebody pointed to the high court order. We will file an appeal on Friday," he said.

C'magaluru AC orders filing of forgery complaint against Nemane Gowda

DH found that Nemane Gowda had filed 10 other cases in the Karnataka High Court related to lands in Chikkamagaluru and Hassan districts, while an assistant commissioner looking into yet another case had ordered officials to file a police case against him for forging documents. Chikmagaluru Sub Division Assistant Commissioner Daljeet Kumar had ordered officials to file a case against Nemane Gowda for forging documents in his claim for about 512 acres of land in Mudigere. Under Section 192 A (3) Land Revenue Act, creating a forged document to grab land attracts punishment up to three years of imprisonment. In another case, the Tahsildar, Mudigere taluk, states that Manmatha Gowda alias Nemana Gowda had forged documents for 267 acres 35 gunta land in two villages of Mudigere taluk and rejects his application.

Meanwhile, officials said there might be 19 cases in the revenue courts (tahsildar and assistant commissioner's courts) of Chikkamagluru itself. "We have started looking into the pending cases, and we are seeing a pattern. In many cases, we see the petitioner invoking the Inam Abolition Act. The paper appears to be forged. We will take appropriate action in the coming days," a senior official said.

CM post for DKS: Vokkaligara Sangha mounts pressure on Cong

Says community supported party for Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Vokkaligara Sangha on Thursday warned Congress of electoral ramifications if Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is not made the chief minister.

This comes a day after top Vokkaliga pontiff Nirmalanandanatha Swami publicly backed Shivakumar's chief ministerial ambition and asked the Congress high command to make him the CM.

"The community supported Congress during the (2023) Assembly elections only because Shivakumar stood a chance to become the CM. If he is cheated, then we'll teach a big lesson to Congress," newly-elected Vokkaligara Sangha president L Srinivas told a news conference.

Srinivas, a former Bengaluru deputy mayor, said Vokkaligas would launch a protest under the guidance of community leaders.

Vokkaligara Sangha general-secretary C G Gangadhar pointed out that Congress won more seats in the Vokkaliga-dominated Old Mysuru region because of Shivakumar. "If Congress wants to retain power, then Shivakumar should be made the CM," he said.

Outgoing Vokkaligara Sangha president Kenchappa Gowda said Shivakumar's efforts in bringing Congress to power cannot be ignored.

"During elections, Shivakumar pleaded before people for a pen and paper. Our community strongly stood with him and voted for Congress thinking he will become the CM. But, the party made Siddaramaiah the CM. As a senior leader, Siddaramaiah, too, has worked for the party and we're happy about him. But Shivakumar should be given a chance," Gowda said.

Former Vokkaligara Sangha general-secretary Konappa Reddy urged top Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to look at Shivakumar's service and loyalty to their party.

"Congress is known to keep its promises. We hope it won't break the promise made to Shivakumar," he said.

YATHINDRA SIDDARAMAIAH
MLC

"My father will be the chief minister for the entire term. The high command has nowhere said that the CM will be changed. There was no such power-sharing formula at all, as far as my information is concerned. There are no allegations against him. So, there shouldn't have been any discussion on the change of leadership.

SATISH JARKIHOLI
PWD Minister

"The government has come to power on account of many people. All of them cannot be provided an opportunity at a time. Some will get and the rest have to wait.

BJP to move no-trust motion against govt in Belagavi session

Sunil Kumar accuses Congress of caste politics

UDUPI, DHNS

Former BJP minister V Sunil Kumar on Thursday said that the BJP will move a no-confidence motion against the Congress government during the upcoming Belagavi legislature session, asserting that the ruling party has "lost the trust of the people as well as its own leaders."

He told reporters here that the matter will also be discussed within the NDA partners.

Sunil Kumar launched a strong attack on the government, alleging administrative paralysis and deep internal rifts within the Congress.

He said that Karnataka has seen "no real governance for the past two months," accusing the government of functioning in a "Dushyasana style" without accountability. Nearly 90% of ministers, he claimed, were absent from Vidhana Soudha.

He criticised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar for "confining their visits to Mysuru and New Delhi."

He alleged a complete breakdown of trust within the ruling establishment.

"Even among themselves—between the CM, DyCM, ministers and MLAs—there is no mutual trust. We will seek a trust vote inside the House," he said.

Accusing the Congress of indulging in caste politics and relying on religious leaders to protect its hold on power, Sunil Kumar said the top Congress leadership itself had created the atmosphere of confusion in the state.

He also claimed that national president Mallikarjun Kharge had been sidelined, remarking that "even the national president does not consider himself the high command."

He clarified that the BJP had no intention of attempting to form a government.

"We are waiting for Congress to collapse under its own weight," he said, questioning the whereabouts of the "140 MLAs supposedly supporting the Deputy Chief Minister," and pointing to the lack of support from Rahul Gandhi as well as the constant trips of state leaders to New Delhi.

Demand for MBA, MCA & MTech courses declining

BENGALURU, DHNS

The demand for MBA, MCA and MTech courses in the state is declining every year, with at least 50% of the seats going vacant after the completion of all rounds of counselling by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

Compared to 2024, the number of unfilled seats increased this year. This year, a total of 38,418 seats were available for all three courses put together. In this, 19,771 seats were left vacant. This number was 15,670 in 2024.

Considering the number of vacancies after two rounds of counselling this year, KEA conducted a third round of counselling for the first time, but it did not help in filling the seats. "This year, even the number of available seats increased compared to last year. There were a total of 38,418 seats available as against the 36,648 seats in 2024," said an official of KEA.

According to experts, this is mainly because of delayed counselling. "Though the PGCET was conducted three months ago, the counselling was held in October. But by then, the private universities had completed the admissions by conducting their own entrance tests," an expert said.

Some experts said that the interests of students have also changed. "Most students are looking for the option of getting employed after a graduate course by having some industry-needed skills," said a principal of a private college that offers MBA and MCA courses.

However, KEA officials clarified that the delay in conducting counselling was not because of it. "It was because the seat matrix reached us late," they mentioned.

LOCKING HORNS LITERALLY

Two blackbucks lock horns on the outskirts of Haveri on Thursday.
DH PHOTO/MALATESH ICHCHANGI

Ahinda Federation rallies behind Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, DHNS: Various Ahinda organisations lead by Karnataka State Other Backward Classes Federation on Thursday said that they will not yield to the threats of Vokkaligara Sangha on leadership change in state.

Addressing a news conference, the Federation, batting in favour of Chief minister Siddaramaiah, "we will not yield to the threats of Vokkaliga mutts and organisations. The Ahinda community will not sit quietly if Siddaramaiah is removed from power."

The Federation's president K M Ramachandrappa said that the Congress came to power due to Ahinda votes. "If the mutts and organisations of the Vokkaliga community lobby in favour of their leaders, then we will fight for Ahinda leaders."

The recommendations of the socio-educational survey report proved that the Ahinda community people are the majority in the state. But, dominant communities prevented the implementation of the recommendations, he alleged.

Meeting with Kharge: Siddu, DKS camps prepare charge sheets

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge all set to call Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar soon to national capital to settle the power tussle in Karnataka, both the camps are preparing charge sheets against each other in case of a showdown.

The chief minister's camp is likely to question the existence of "power-sharing formula" that is being cited by the Shivakumar camp to stake claim for the top post in the state, claiming it was neither discussed nor finalised in the run up to the formation of the government in May 2023.

Shivakumar has said that the power-sharing formula was a "secret among 5-6 people", purportedly referring to a meeting of the Congress top brass, including Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

However, the Siddaramaiah camp disputes this citing general secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal's remarks at a press conference on May 18, 2023 that the "only power-sharing arrangement discussed" was on how to "share power with people".

The chief minister's camp is also preparing a counter-offensive against Shivakumar, painting him in saffron colours listing his attendance at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj in February 2025 despite the Congress central leadership keeping away from the event alleging that the BJP was using the religious congregation for political purposes.

They will also highlight Shivakumar sharing dais with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a function at Isha Foundation in February 2025. The third instance highlighted by Siddaramaiah camp is Shivakumar reciting the RSS anthem in the Assembly.

Counter by DKS camp

In counter, the group led by Shivakumar is insisting that the chief minister must honour his word and leave the chair for Shivakumar as per the power-sharing agreement. They are also projecting Siddaramaiah as a lateral entry into the party from the Janata Parivar, demanding that a dyed in the wool Congressman who has risen up the ranks should be given the opportunity to lead the party into the 2028 Assembly polls.

His supporters argue that Shivakumar was always loyal to the party and took up the mantle of state president in 2020 at a time when no one was willing to lead the party into 2023 elections.

To underscore their claim, the Shivakumar loyalists are arguing that most of Siddaramaiah's close aides are from his erstwhile party Janata Dal, which he left for the Congress in 2006, and the latter failed to recognise and reward any original party worker. The deputy CM is also likely to rake up the allegations of irregularities in MUDA land allocation to buttress his claim.

Power tussle: AICC chief to call meeting shortly

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said Thursday he will call a meeting of senior leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, in New Delhi to discuss the leadership "confusion."

"After going to Delhi, I will call three-four important leaders and discuss. After the discussion, we will decide on how to go ahead and put an end to the confusion," Kharge told reporters here before leaving for Delhi. Reacting to Kharge's statement, both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar said they would visit Delhi if and when called. Earlier in the day, Siddaramaiah held a meeting with his Cabinet colleagues G Parameshwara, Satish Jarkiholi, H C Mahadevappa, K Venkatesh and former minister KN Rajanna.

CM flags off Digital Mobile Planetarium vehicles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday flagged off the 'Digital Mobile Planetarium', vehicles, launched by the state government to add value to science education for students in the rural parts of Karnataka. Customised vehicles designed by the Department of Science and Technology offer an immersive astronomic experience, will visit rural schools across the state, with the goal of reaching more than 17 lakh students.

"Igniting scientific curiosity among rural school-children is our priority, as is taking high-quality science education to them," said the CM.

Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology N S Boseraju said, "The programme has been upgraded using advanced technology, along with an expanded delivery model. Mobile planetariums currently operate only in a few districts, and the government wants to take them to all the districts across the state."

These air-conditioned mobile planetariums boast a five-metre dome, and offer 360-degree fish-eye projection, besides having advanced audio systems.

KSCA polls: HC reserves orders on plea questioning rejection of nomination papers

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka high court on Thursday reserved its orders on the petition filed by K N Shanth Kumar, challenging the rejection of his nomination papers for post of president of Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).

Justice Suraj Govindaraj has also restrained the electoral officer from notifying the final list, in so far as the president, till further orders.

The petitioner has sought a direction to quash the November 24, 2025, order passed by the electoral officer rejecting his nomination on the ground of 'pending arrears'. The petitioner further sought directions to declare him as a valid candidate to contest the elections and directions to the electoral officer to carry on the poll process in terms of the calendar of events. It is contended by the petitioner that the arrears were paid on November 24, before the completion of the scrutiny process.

The counsel, appearing for the electoral officer, placed before the court the video recording of the scrutiny proceedings of November 24 related to the nomination papers for the post of president. It was submitted that the receipt for payment of arrears was available at the time of scrutiny of the papers.

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I, NIGITHA JOY (Old Name) C/O VINEETH VARGHESE, R/at No.16, Block 3, Type 2, Nimhans Quarters, Byrasandra Campus, Banglore South, PO Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru-560011. Here by declare that I have changed the name as NIJITHA JOY (as per aadhar card) for all purposes vide affadavit dated 27.11.2025, before notary Mohammed Hussain, Bengaluru.

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ROLL ROW: Court maintains poll body can adopt a process if it is fair, transparent

EC empowered to conduct SIR: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it did not agree with the contention that the Election Commission (EC) lacked the power to conduct the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The top court maintained that if a process was fair and transparent, the poll body could adopt it.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi found the submissions by senior advocate A M Singhvi, representing parties opposing the SIR, unconvincing.

"If we go by the submission, the EC will never have the power to conduct the special intensive survey. It is not a routine or ordinary updating of the electoral rolls; this is a special survey, SIR, unless the rule or statute itself contemplates the procedure to be followed. Any process, which should be fair enough and transparent..., that can be adopted by the commission," said the bench.

Singhvi contended there was no power, claiming that the court had done a lot of work to give a healing touch to the matter, but the law was forgotten.

The EC, under Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), had the power to direct a special revision of the electoral rolls in any constituency or its part, as it might think fit, but it could not be interpreted as an en masse exercise, he said.

ABHISHEK SINGHVI
Senior Advocate

"The EC, in the garb of passing orders for regulating the conduct of elections, cannot take upon itself the purely legislative activity which has been reserved, under the scheme of the Constitution, only to Parliament and the state legislatures.

Singhvi contended that Article 324 authorised the EC to exercise powers of superintendence, direction, and control of the preparation of electoral rolls, and the conduct of elections.

"But then the article has to be read harmoniously with the articles that follow — that is Article 327. The commission, under the garb of passing orders for regulating the conduct of elections, cannot take upon itself the purely legislative activity that has been reserved under the scheme of the Constitution," he said.

He pointed to a form used in the Bihar SIR in June 2025. He submitted that it said 11-12 documents were required, and that form could be prescribed only by legislation under the Act, through parliamentary law in the form of rules, and that Article 324 did not plug that gap.

Earlier, senior advocate Kapil Sibal argued that it was a dangerous proposition to deploy booth-level officers, usually schoolteachers, to determine a person's citizenship.

Youth Congress workers stage a protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, in Lucknow, on Thursday. PTI

Over 2 crore Aadhaar numbers deactivated

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Unique Identification Authority of India has said it has deactivated more than 2 crore Aadhaar numbers of deceased individuals from its system.

UIDAI has sourced deceased persons' data from the Registrar General of India (RGI), states and union territories, public distribution system, national social assistance program, among others, the Authority said in its statement.

The UIDAI has deactivated more than 2 crore Aadhaar numbers of deceased individuals as part of a nationwide clean-up effort to maintain the continued accuracy of the Aadhaar database. It was looking to collaborate with financial institutions and other such entities for getting deceased persons data, the statement said.

"UIDAI is encouraging Aadhaar number holders to report the death of their family members on myAadhaar Portal after obtaining their death certificate from the death registering authorities," the statement said.

No Aadhaar number is ever re-assigned to another individual.

However, in case of the death of a person, it is essential that the Aadhaar number of the deceased is deactivated to prevent potential identity fraud, or unauthorised usage of such Aadhaar number for availing welfare benefits.

UIDAI has also launched a facility earlier this year - Reporting of death of a family member - on the myAadhaar Portal for deaths registered in 25 states and UTs presently using civil registration system.

"The process of integration for remaining States and UTs with the portal is currently underway. The family member, after authenticating himself/herself, is required to provide an Aadhaar number and Death Registration Number along with other demographic details of the deceased person on the portal," the statement said.

West Bengal govt shuffles police top brass amid poll roll revision

KOLKATA, PTI: In the middle of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and with Assembly polls months away, the West Bengal government on Thursday ordered a sweeping police reshuffle, shifting SPs in nearly 10 districts and altering several strategic IPS positions across the northern and southern districts.

The notification by the home and hill affairs department comes at a time when the SIR process, involving house-to-house verification of voter lists, is underway, a period that has often sharpened political tensions, with both the ruling TMC and BJP accusing each other of manipulating electoral data through partisan policing.

Officials at state secretariat Nabanna insisted the reshuffle was a "routine" administrative exercise, but the timing has not gone unnoticed in political and bureaucratic circles.

In several districts such as Malda, East Midnapore, and parts of North Bengal, the SIR process has already prompted murmurs of irregularities, making the parallel movement of senior officers more politically sensitive than usual.

Among the significant changes, Jhargram SP Arijit Sinha has been promoted as DIG, Midnapore Range.

Bihar Cong blames poll loss on SIR, rift, cash transfers

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Bihar Congress leaders on Thursday told the party's central leadership that the Nitish Kumar government's Rs 10,000 cash transfer to women beneficiaries, the I.N.D.I.A bloc's delayed seat-sharing agreement, shifting of candidates, internal rift, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and electoral malpractices were among the reasons for its Bihar Assembly poll loss.

Some leaders also highlighted the "Owaisi factor" in the Seemanchal region as well as in other places, where the Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) split the Muslim votes. The Congress won only six of the 60 seats it contested in the Bihar Assembly elections.

At a review meeting here, winning and losing candidates met party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and party general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal. The leadership also met Bihar Congress chief Rajesh Ram, the party's Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru, Congress MPs Akhilesh Prasad Singh and Tariq Anwar, and independent MP Pappu Yadav.

After the four-hour meeting, Venugopal said the leaders and candidates made "one thing absolutely clear", that the election was "not a genuine mandate, but a grossly managed and fabricated outcome".

He said they highlighted how the SIR enabled targeted voter deletions and dubious additions, how "blatant cash bribery" was used to influence voters even at polling stations, and how identical margins across constituencies exposed "a pattern that no independent election commission would ever overlook".

"These issues point to organised electoral malpractices and brazen violations of the Model Code of Conduct, carried out under the watch of an EC [Election Commission] that has increasingly behaved like an active collaborator in the BJP's election rigging," he said.

Rajesh Ram told reporters that scheme workers were deployed at voting booths on polling day for a campaign by the Nitish government.

OVERALL FACTORS

- Cong's Bihar candidates say mandate was 'fabricated' through SIR and bribery at polling stations
- They also accuse AIMIM of splitting the Muslim vote
- Internal issues, like late candidate announcements, and identical margins across constituencies also cited

Hosur airport: Tamil Nadu floats bid to select DTER consultant

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

The Tamil Nadu government on Thursday floated bids for a consultant to prepare a Detailed Techno-Economic Report (DTER) to develop a greenfield airport for the industrial city of Hosur in the Krishnagiri district, within weeks of applying for site clearance for the project.

The consultant, to be chosen by the TN Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), would be expected to prepare the report—including surveys, master planning, financial modelling, and on mandatory clearances, and bid process management for the proposed site.

The move comes after the state government identified about 2,300 acres of land in the Hosur-Berigai- Bagalur-Shoolagiri quadrilateral in the Krishnagiri district for the airport.

While the process of preparing a Land Development Plan is still underway, TIDCO applied to the Union Civil Aviation Ministry for site clearance this month — the first of the many approvals needed.

"We will start acquiring the land needed for the project once the GO [government order] is issued," a senior government official told *DH*.

The chosen location is close to the Tamil Nadu section of the Bengaluru Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR).

The TN government plans to build a single-runway airport with a capacity to handle 3 crore passengers a year.

The government believes the new airport would also attract freight traffic, as Hosur houses over 500 industries and about 3,000 MSME units.

The development comes amid Karnataka's assertions that it would choose a location in South Bengaluru to build a second airport for the city. The Hosur airport will also benefit people from South Bengaluru due to its proximity.

Kedarnath chopper crash: Probe finds no abnormalities

NEW DELHI, PTI: 'Cannot see anything, turning...' was the last message from the pilot of the 17-year-old helicopter that crashed near Kedarnath valley in June this year, killing all seven people onboard, and the valley exit was covered with clouds at the time of the accident, according to AAIB's interim probe report.

Aryan Aviation Pvt Ltd's Bell 407 helicopter (VT-BKA), which took off from Kedarnath, crashed at 5.35 am and was destroyed in a fire on June 15.

In the interim report, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) said there was no abnormality when the helicopter took off from Kedarnath. "On analysing the footage of the CCTV camera facing the valley entry/exit point, during the time of the accident, it was observed that the valley exit point was covered with clouds and was moving down into the valley. The other two helicopters, which were behind the helicopter VT-BKA, were observed to have exited the valley at a lower altitude by avoiding the clouds," it said.

"Accordingly, the pilot of VT-BKA was maintaining 9,000 feet altitude while approaching the valley exit point," the report said.

Cong social media accounts being operated from abroad: BJP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Thursday accused the Congress of using overseas-based social-media accounts to influence political discourse in India, citing a new location-tracking feature on X.

Party spokesperson Sambit Patra told reporters that these accounts were being operated "from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, and the US".

"[Congress Working Committee member] Pawan Khera's account showed up as based in the United States... The Maharashtra Congress handle appeared based in Ireland when it was created," he alleged.

Congress hits back

Meanwhile, the Congress accused the BJP of misleading the country by discrediting questions on 'vote chori', faulty voter lists, deaths of booth level officers and China's claim on Arunachal Pradesh by raising issues of X handles. Party leader Supriya Shrinate alleged that the Gujarat BJP's X handle was based in Ireland, Sri Sri Ravishankar's account from North America, DD News from the US and the Adani Group accounts are being operated from Germany.

WINTER WARMTH

People warm themselves around a bonfire on a winter day, in Jammu, on Thursday. PTI

CLIMATE SHIFTS

Four droughts linked to Indus Valley decline

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Four severe droughts, each lasting more than 85 years, played a major role in the eventual fall of the Indus Valley Civilisation, Indian scientists reported on Thursday, providing fresh insights into the mysteries surrounding the decline of the mighty civilisation. The findings may help explain why this ancient civilisation — a contemporary of Egypt located around the modern India-Pakistan border — slowly declined, highlighting how environmental factors could shape early societies.

The Indus Valley Civilisation was one of the earliest urban cultures, existing between 5,000 and 3,500 years ago around the Indus River and its tributaries in modern-day Pakistan and northwest India.

At its peak, between 4,500 and 3,900 years ago, it was characterised by advanced cities, modern water management systems and sophisticated writing. However, the reasons for the civilisation's prolonged decline after this peak are not yet fully understood.

Past studies have proposed factors such as climate change, seawater retreat, droughts, floods and shifting river dynamics as possible triggers of social and political changes. The exact nature of these factors has long been debated. To find out the answer, Vimal Mishra of the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, and colleagues from the University of Arizona and the University of Colorado simulated climate conditions across the Indus Valley Civilisation region between 5,000 and 3,000 years ago.

They combined these results with data from several indirect measures of past climate conditions, including the geochemistry of stalactites and stalagmites in two Indian caves, and the water level records of five lakes in northwest India.

The authors identified a temperature increase of approximately 0.5 degrees Celsius and a decrease in average annual rainfall across the region of between 10% and 20%.

They were also able to identify four long-term droughts between 4,450 and 3,400 years ago, each lasting over 85 years. Out of the four, only one continued for less than 100 years.

Between 5,000 and 4,500 years ago, settlements were concentrated in areas with more rainfall. But from 4,500 years ago onwards, settlements shifted closer to the Indus River. The final 113-year-long drought coincides with evidence of major deurbanisation in the Indus Valley. The authors note that the civilisation may not have collapsed suddenly due to one climate event, but declined slowly, with the prolonged droughts a major contributory factor.

WHEN RAIN FAILS

- Study links droughts lasting over 85 years to civilisation's decline
- Longest spell stretched between 3826 and 3663 Before Present
- Final drought of 113 years coincided with major deurbanisation
- Rainfall drop of 10-20% and temperature rise of 0.5°C identified

India, Indonesia to strengthen collaboration on tech transfer

BrahMos deal might take more time before contract is signed

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and Indonesia on Thursday moved ahead in the long-awaited BrahMos deal with Jakarta supporting New Delhi to set up a joint committee to strengthen collaboration in "technology transfer" even as the two Asian powerhouses reiterated their commitment to keep the Indo-Pacific region "free, open and peaceful".

This was the outcome of a bilateral meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Indonesian counterpart Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin, nearly ten months after the visit of President Prabowo Subianto, as the Chief Guest at this year's Republic Day parade.

The BrahMos deal was discussed at the bilateral meeting, though sources said it might take more time before the formal contract is inked.

Earlier in the day, the Indonesian delegation, led by the minister, visited the BrahMos facility here and received a briefing from the officials.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Indonesian counterpart Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin in Delhi on Thursday. AFP

New Delhi and Jakarta have been discussing the BrahMos contract for some time, and a deal was expected in January during President Subianto's visit, but it didn't materialise.

"Indonesia appreciated India's proposal to establish a Joint Defence Industry Cooperation Committee to further strengthen collaboration in areas such as technology transfer, joint R&D, certification harmonisation, and supply-chain linkages," the Defence Ministry said.

BILATERAL PUSH

- Joint panel to be set up to strengthen collaboration in "technology transfer"
- BrahMos deal discussed but might take some more time to materialise
- The Philippines only country to which India has sold BrahMos missiles
- It acquired three batteries of supersonic cruise missiles in 2022

The Philippines is the only country to which India sold BrahMos cruise missiles. In 2022, it acquired three batteries of the supersonic cruise missiles with a range of 290 km.

India and Indonesia reiterated the importance of maintaining a free, open, peaceful, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific, guided by international law and respect for sovereignty. They also committed to enhancing practical cooperation in maritime domain awareness, cyber resilience, and joint operational readiness.

India's experience in submarine development and supply-chain management, including the Scorpene-class submarine programme, was acknowledged as highly valuable for Indonesia's future plans, the defence ministry said.

Noting that the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative share relevant fundamental principles, Indonesia reiterated that India remains a key partner in promoting peace and cooperation in the region.

The heightened collaboration with Indonesia comes at a time when Jakarta is massively equipping its armed forces, raising nearly 500 battalions to man all its districts.

"Countries in the ASEAN who thought they would not have any adversary in the neighbourhood are rearming... They will rival the size of our army shortly," Defence Secretary R K Singh said.

Army chief outlines 'set of springboards' to transform force

NEW DELHI, PTI: Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday said the world has moved from the Cold War's bipolarity through a brief unipolar moment into an "uncertain and fractured order", as he underlined that the long peace is declining and comprehensive conflicts are on the rise.

In his address at the inaugural session of the third edition of Chanakya Defence Dialogue, a key conclave hosted by the Army here, he outlined a "set of springboards" that will drive the years of transformation ahead for the force, so as to remain decisive and future-ready in this rapidly-evolving global landscape.

"We are living in an increasingly multipolar world, where major powers are continuously jostling and competing. The world has moved from the Cold War's bipolarity through a brief unipolar moment, into an uncertain and fractured order. The long peace is declining, and comprehensive conflicts are on the rise," Gen Dwivedi said.

So, if globe is swiveling towards national security, deterrence and war-fighting, it inevitably "raises a fundamental question for us -- how must the Indian military transform to remain decisive and ready," he said.

Rift in NC escalates as MP Ruhullah left out of key meet

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

For the first time since 2002, National Conference (NC) Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi found himself excluded from the party's Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting — and he chose that very day to stage a pointed show of defiance by launching a politically charged outreach in Ganderbal, the home turf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi

While the NC leadership convened in Srinagar on Thursday to introspect on recent setbacks, including the Budgam bypoll defeat, Ruhullah travelled instead to Bunpora, Tulmulla, to meet local farmers. The timing — and the choice of Omar's constituency — has been widely viewed as a deliberate snub to the top leadership and a public escalation of his long-simmering rift with the Abdullahs.

Speaking to reporters in Ganderbal, Ruhullah confirmed his exclusion from the meeting, calling it unprecedented in his political career. "If the working committee meeting is going on, I am a permanent member of it. This is the first time since 2002 that I have not been invited," he said.

His office had earlier clarified that he "has neither been invited nor is aware" of any such meeting in Srinagar.

Ruhullah, who has been increasingly vocal about the party's shifting positions — particularly on reservation rationalisation and its post-Article 370 political line — has already distanced himself from the NC's organisational affairs for months.

His schedule in Ganderbal also includes a visit to the family of a youth from Kangan who died in the Red Fort blast in New Delhi, adding a sensitive personal dimension to his political messaging and signalling an attempt to deepen grassroots outreach at a time when the NC is attempting to stabilise itself after recent losses.

Amid growing speculation that he may be preparing to float a separate party, Ruhullah dismissed the talk. "I have not kept a distance from any party, nor have I spoken to anyone to form another party," he said.

Reiterating the ideological divide with the current leadership, he added, "We made promises to the people that we would fight for the return of protections linked to Article 370. We cannot switch to a different language after getting that mandate."

Assam passes anti-polygamy bill; Sarma says UCC next

Oppn calls it communal; CM says it helps Muslim women

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

After Uttarakhand, Assam on Thursday became another BJP-ruled state to criminalise polygamy, with the Assembly passing an anti-polygamy bill.

The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, prescribes punishment of up to seven years in jail and a fine for those convicted, and up to 10 years if a person conceals an existing marriage. The penalty will be doubled for repeat offenders.

Polygamy in India is already prohibited for Hindus and others, but has been permitted for Muslims (up to four marriages) under Sharia law.

The bill will now be sent for the President's assent, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told the Assembly.

The Opposition Congress and the Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF questioned the bill, alleging that it targeted Muslims and carried a communal motive in the run-up to the Assembly elections slated for next year.

CRIMINAL OFFENCE

- Jail up to 7 years and penalty for those found guilty of more than one marriage
- Jail up to 10 years and fine for concealing existing marriage
- Double punishment for repeat offenders
- Jail up to 2 years for village headmen, qazis and parents who take part in solemnisation
- Disqualification from govt jobs, benefits and local polls for anyone convicted under the Act

Participating in the discussion, CM Sarma told the Assembly that the legislation was aimed at protecting Muslim women, their health, dignity and rights.

"I cannot accept a Muslim woman becoming a mother at the age of 15 when she should be studying in school or college. This bill is not anti-Islam. Even some Islamic countries have banned polygamy after realising its harm," Sarma said. "This bill will teach people to be real Muslims."

The ruling BJP welcomed the measure, saying that the practice of polygamy had reduced Muslim women to "child-bearing machines". The party held polygamy responsible for the high birth rate among Muslims and claimed it was being used as a means to capture government land.

Sarma said that if he is re-elected, he will introduce a bill on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the very first session. "Stop me from becoming the CM again, if you can, or I assure the House today that I will table the UCC bill," he told the Opposition.

He added that his objective was to end child marriages, instant divorce, adultery and cruelty towards Muslim women. He said his government would raise the minimum age of marriage for women from 19 to 21 in the next term.

Sarma said the anti-polygamy Act would, however, exempt areas under the autonomous councils protected by the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. "The councils can enact such a law themselves or request the state to bring their areas under the ambit of a law passed by the Assembly. We cannot impose," the chief minister said.

Sengottaiyan finds new stage in TVK

ANALYSIS

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Veteran AIADMK leader K A Sengottaiyan, expelled after a dramatic rebellion against party general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, has now crossed over to actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK).

The 77-year-old's organisational experience and stature are seen as a much-needed anchor for a fledgling outfit still struggling to find its political footing ahead of the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly polls.

The nine-term legislator, who has spent over five decades in Dravidian politics working with M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa, was welcomed by Vijay at the TVK headquarters on Thursday and swiftly elevated as the chief coordinator of its high-level committee.

It is believed that Vijay sought a veteran like him not just for advice but to help craft strategies for the 2026 elections.

The absence of a politically-seasoned leadership in TVK became evident after the Karur stampede, which claimed 41 lives and exposed the party's inadequate response. Sengottaiyan's entry plugs that gap.

His move marks the culmination of months of political turbulence. In February this year, Sengottaiyan — who had been with the AIADMK since its founding in 1972 — stunned many by rebelling against EPS. The soft-spoken veteran was known more for his unflinching loyalty than for defiance.

TVK chief Vijay with Sengottaiyan. PTI

Political circles buzzed with speculation that the BJP was propping up Sengottaiyan to pressure EPS into rejoining the NDA ahead of the 2026 polls and pave the way for the return of expelled leaders V K Sasikala, T T V Dhinakaran, and O Panneerselvam.

The BJP angle

The BJP has been seeking to exploit the AIADMK's internal rifts since Jayalalithaa's death, and Sengottaiyan was seen as central to its "plan B". But it never materialised.

On Sept 5, Sengottaiyan made an impassioned plea for the unification of the AIADMK, setting a 10-day deadline for EPS. The next day, he was stripped of his party posts. A miffed Sengottaiyan rushed to Delhi to meet BJP leaders.

"It was the BJP that asked Sengottaiyan to push for a unified AIADMK, and he executed their plan. But he felt let down by the BJP as he was cold-shouldered by those in touch with him," a source said. The next day, he was expelled from the AIADMK.

Assam amends law to allow buffalo fight

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The Assam Assembly on Thursday passed an amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, to permit the traditional buffalo fights organised during the annual Bhogali Bihu festival.

The move comes ahead of the Assembly elections, slated for early next year.

Buffalo fights are organised at Ahotguri in the Morigaon district and several other places as part of the celebrations of Bhogali Bihu in January every year.

However, the fights had to be discontinued after the India chapter of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) moved the Guwahati High Court.

PETA India said that this move would "plunge Assam into the Dark Ages". "The passage of this cruel Bill, aimed at allowing vulnerable buffaloes to be beaten into charging at, wounding, and bloodying each other, plunges Assam into the Dark Ages," the statement said.

UP: 6 killed in road accident

SAMBHAL, PTI: Six persons, including three children, were killed and four others injured when a car and a pick-up vehicle collided head-on over an under-construction stretch of the Ganga Expressway here on Thursday.

The accident occurred near Dhatura Rasoolpur village in Hayatnagar area, where both vehicles were reportedly travelling on the same lane of the incomplete expressway.

Police raid Srinagar mosques, madrasas

SRINAGAR, DHNS: In a coordinated city-wide operation on Thursday, Jammu and Kashmir Police carried out inspections of masjids and madrasas across Srinagar, intensifying a drive against alleged terrorist-linked networks and individuals.

Police and CRPF personnel carry out a search at the residence of a man linked to Jamaat-e-Islami in Pulwama. PTI

Authorities said the search teams — accompanied by executive magistrates and independent witnesses — entered religious institutions to gather evidence of what they described as "terror-linked or radical activities inimical to the security and integrity of the nation." During the inspections, digital devices, documents and other material were seized and examined.

The police described the operation as part of a broader effort to dismantle the so-called "terror support ecosystem" in the Valley. They said the action aims to prevent any conspiratorial or unlawful acts that might disturb peace and public order. The operations, they added, are being carried out under strict legal procedures to ensure transparency and accountability.

The latest masjid and madrasa inspections are part of the preventive campaign. Police have stated that such actions will continue wherever "credible inputs" indicate the presence of individuals or material linked to terror or radicalised activities.

Authorities have also appealed to citizens to cooperate with investigations and report any suspicious activity.

Given the scale and scope of the operations, the crackdown underscores a renewed push by security forces in Kashmir to root out not only active militancy, but also support networks and radicalising influences at the grassroots level.

Delhi blast probe reveals 2 more hideouts of terror suspect

FARIDABAD, PTI: Delhi blast investigation revealed that Dr Muzammil Ganaie, one of the prime suspects arrested in connection with the white-collar terror module linked to the November 10 terrorist incident, had two more hideouts near the Al-Falah University.

Besides renting hideouts in Fatehpur Taga and Dhauj in Faridabad, Muzammil had taken a house on rent from the former sarpanch of Khori Jamalpur village on the pretext of starting a Kashmiri fruit business, and a small room built on a farmer's land, police sources have said. He stayed here between April and July on a monthly rent of Rs 8,000, they added.

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Dy. Chief Operations Manager/IT, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open **on 02.01.2026 at 15.00 hrs.** Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of work:** Design, Supply, Testing, Installation and Commissioning of Automatic Gates (AGs) for AFC-PC System on replacement and addition at Dumdum, Chandni Chowk, Central, Esplanade, Rabindra Sadan, Kalighat, M.Uttamkumar, Kavi Nazrul & Kavi Subhash stations of Blue Line Metro corridor. **Tender Value:** ₹ 25,72,77,481. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 14,36,400. **Cost of Tender Document:** ₹ 0. **Completion Period:** 08 months. The tender can be viewed at website **https://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.
Open Tender Notice No.: OPERATING-AFC-PC-AG-NS-2025, Dated: 27.11.2025
Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION, Malleshwaram Zone
Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC building, Chennamanakere Achchukattu, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-85
No. EE(BG)/KPPP/TEND/04/2025-26 Date: 27.11.2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
The Executive Engineer, Basavangudi Division, BWCC invites tender from eligible Tenderers registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD/CPWD or any state Governmental Organization for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Providing security service to all BBMP Office Buildings in Basavanagudi Constituency (Technology Based Hybrid Security System) for the year 2024-25 (Two Cover System) -(3rd Call). **Amount put to tender: : Rs. 76.21 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.1,53,000/-.**
2.	Providing House Keeping Services to All BBMP Office Buildings in Basavanagudi Constituency for the year 2024-25 (Single Cover System)-(2nd Call). **Amount put to tender: : Rs. 21.15 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.43,000/-**
3.	Providing Rain Water Harvesting to BBMP Buildings in Basavanagudi Constituency for the year 2024-25 (Single Cover System)-(2nd Call). **Amount put to tender: Rs. 5.90 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.15,000 /-**
4.	Renovation, Repairs of KH Kala Soudha Auditorium Building in Ward No.196 in Basavanagudi Constituency (Two Cover System)-(2nd Call). **Amount put to tender: Rs. 56.06 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.1,13,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal : **From 29.11.2025, 17.00 Hrs on wards (2)** Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents : On **18.12.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs (3)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **10.12.2025 at 16.00 Hrs** in the office of Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC building, Chennamanakere Achchukattu, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd stage, Bangalore-560085 **(4)** Opening of Tender : On **19.12.2025 at 17.30 Hrs (5)** Financial opening : Opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.
No: KREIS/EE-1/Tender-22/2025-26 Date: 25.11.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)
The tenders have been invited for **Balance Works to Chalavadi Sabha Bhavana in Bengaluru, Construction of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavana in Bengaluru, Construction of Hostels in the jurisdiction of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 799, 800, 801, 802 and 804)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **25.11.2025.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **26.12.2025.** The details may be viewed at above website.
Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer-1 KREIS
DIPR/CP/YC/4054/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CE DIVISION: HASSAN, KSRTC Regional Training Institute building, Near Dairy Circle, Ring Road, Hassan-573201. Ph. Office: 08172-295262 e-mail:eehsn@ksrtc.org
No: KST/EEH/JE/410/2025-26 Date: 27-11-2025
KPP PORTAL E-TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 06/2025-26
Tenders are invited in KPP PORTAL E-Procurement mode from eligible registered KPWD/CPWD/MES Contractors for the following work. Tender Notification and further details for the work can be downloaded free of cost from KPP Portal website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **from 29-11-2025 onwards.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	E.M.D (in Rs.)	Last date for submission of tenders
1	Development of Bus Stand with its sub works at Goruru Bus Station.	**80.36**	1,60,720/-	**15-12-2025**

More details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer, KSRTC, CE Division, KSRTC Regional Training Institute Building, Near Dairy Circle, Ring Road, Hassan** during working hours on all working days.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/4068/MAA/2025-26 **Executive Engineer, KSRTC CE Division, Hassan**

Sunday's all-party meet to discuss Winter Session

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has called for an all-party meeting on Sunday, a day ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament.

A stormy session is expected, with the ruling NDA emboldened by the Bihar Assembly election win: The Opposition is poised to raise issues like the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and US trade tariffs.

The meeting, set to convene at the Parliament Annexe on Sunday, is also expected to discuss Bills that the government would reportedly introduce this session, as well as come to an agreement on contentious matters between the government and the Opposition.

With the Centre set to table 10 Bills as part of its legislative agenda, the Session is set to see sharp exchanges between the Treasury benches and the Opposition.

One Bill, proposing to bring Chandigarh under Article 240 of the Constitution, created a furore, after which the government took it back. Another Bill proposes the merger of the UGC, AICTE, and the NTA into the Higher Education Council of India.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal earlier said a meeting would be convened so that the Opposition parties could be shown the proposed legislation.

The session will be held between December 1 and 19.

Indians top UK emigration list as net migration drops sharply

Record numbers of Indian study-visa holders leaving the country

LONDON, PTI

Indian students and workers on Thursday topped the tally of visa-holders leaving the UK, as the country's latest net migration data revealed a sharp fall of 204,000 — down 80 per cent from the 2023 peak.

Data from the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows that around 45,000 Indians on study visas and 22,000 professionals on work-related visas left the UK as their country of residence in the year ending June 2025.

A further 7,000 Indian nationals listed under the "other" visa category also departed, bringing the total number of Indian emigrants to 74,000. Chinese nationals followed with 42,000 departures, forming the second-largest group in the UK's exit tally.

"Indian was the most common non-EU nationality to emigrate (or leave) from the UK," the ONS said in its release. "The increase in long-term emigration of non-EU+ nationals who originally arrived on study-related visas is primarily being driven by the large numbers of Indian and Chinese nationals leaving in YE (year ending) June 2025," it noted.

LEAVING UNITED KINGDOM

- 45,000 Indians on study visas left the UK and 22,000 Indian professionals on work visas left.
- 7,000 Indian nationals on "other" visas also departed.
- Chinese nationals were the second-largest group leaving, with 42,000 departures.

Indians, meanwhile, continue to hold the top position in terms of immigration into the UK, with 90,000 study visa grants and 46,000 work-related entries.

"Indian, Pakistani, Chinese and Nigerian are regularly among the top five most frequent non-EU+ nationalities for long-term immigration," the ONS added.

Reducing net migration — the difference between arrivals and departures — has been a key priority for the British government amid pressure from rising immigration figures in recent years. "Net migration is at the lowest level seen since 2021, when pandemic lockdown restrictions were lifted and the new immigration system was introduced following the UK's EU exit," said Mary Gregory, Executive Director for Population and Census at the ONS.

"The fall is largely due to fewer people from outside the EU arriving for work and study-related reasons, with a steep decline in the number of dependants, and a continued, gradual increase in levels of emigration. Overall, non-EU+ net migration has more than halved in the year ending June 2025.

"Non-EU+ emigration is driven by Indian and Chinese nationals who originally arrived on study visas, while nine out of ten British people emigrating are of working age," she said. UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood, who this month tabled a series of tighter measures in Parliament to reduce immigration figures, welcomed the new data, saying net migration was now at its lowest level in half a decade and had "fallen by more than two-thirds under this government".

"But we are going further because the pace and scale of migration has placed immense pressure on local communities. Last week, I announced reforms to our migration system to ensure that those who come here must contribute and put in more than they take out," she said.

Afghan man shoots at US troops near White House

Trump vows tighter migrant scrutiny after attack

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

An Afghan national has been accused of shooting two West Virginia National Guard members just blocks from the White House, in a brazen act of violence at a time when the presence of troops in the nation's capital and other US cities has become a political flashpoint.

Jeanine Pirro, the US attorney for the District of Columbia, said at a Thursday news briefing that the Guard members shot were Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, and Staff Sgt Andrew Wolfe, 24. Both were hospitalised in critical condition after Wednesday afternoon's attack.

Pirro said the suspect, Rahmanullah Lakanwal, drove across the country to launch an "ambush-style" assault with a .357 Smith & Wesson revolver. Pirro said it was "too soon to say" what the suspect's motives were.

FBI Director Kash Patel said the shooting is being investigated as an act of terrorism. The rare shooting of National Guard members on American soil, on the day before Thanksgiving, comes amid court battles and wider public debate over the Trump administration's use of the military to confront what officials describe as an out-of-control crime problem.

The suspect in custody was also shot, with injuries not believed to be life-threatening. The 29-year-old suspect entered the US in 2021 through Operation Allies Welcome, a Biden-era programme that evacuated and resettled tens of thousands of Afghans following the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. The initiative brought 76,000 people to the US, many of whom had worked alongside American troops and diplomats as interpreters and translators.

President Donald Trump said the "heinous assault" proves that lax migration policies are "the single greatest national security threat facing our nation". The US Citizenship and Immigration Services later said it would indefinitely halt processing of all immigration requests for Afghan nationals pending a review of security and vetting protocols.

THE ATTACKER

- Afghan national Rahmanullah Lakanwal previously worked with the CIA in Afghanistan.
- Lakanwal came to the US in 2021 via Operation Allies Welcome scheme.
- He was shot by another soldier during the incident and "severely wounded"

GLAMOUR TRIUMPH

Colombia's Catalina Duque (centre) poses with first runner-up Zimbabwe's Yollanda Chimbarami (right) and second runner-up Bolivia's Paola Guzman Sanchez after being crowned the Miss International 2025 in Tokyo on Thursday. AFP

83 dead as HK firefighters battle burning towers for second day

Search continues for missing residents

BEIJING/HONG KONG, PTI

Firefighters battled for a second day on Thursday to contain a massive inferno that tore through seven high-rise residential towers in Hong Kong, as the death toll rose to 83 and more than 280 people remained missing in what officials described as the city's worst disaster in 70 years.

Some 76 people were injured, including 15 in critical condition and 28 listed as serious. The dead also include a firefighter, and many people are still believed to be trapped inside the buildings.

Raging flames at four of the seven blocks have been brought under control, while fires continued to burn on the upper floors of the remaining 31-storey buildings on Thursday evening.

Full-scale rescue operations are ongoing, and victims continue to be extracted from the towers, the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* reported.

The exact cause of the fire, which began on Wednesday, is not yet known, and a criminal investigation has been launched. City officials say more than 280 people remain missing from the seven gutted buildings, each with 32 floors.

The Hong Kong government has set up a HKD 300 million (about USD 43 million) relief fund for those affected.

Thick smoke billows from the upper floors of a residential block at Wang Fuk Court in Hong Kong on Thursday. REUTERS

Myanmar frees thousands in pre-election amnesty

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: Excited families greeted relatives released from Myanmar's Insein Prison on Thursday as part of a mass amnesty granted by the country's military rulers ahead of next month's election.

At least eight buses carrying prisoners were welcomed outside the Yangon prison gate at 11:30 am by relatives and friends.

The military administration granted amnesty to more than 3,000 people imprisoned for opposing army rule and dropped charges against more than 5,500 others, state-run broadcaster MRTV said. It said the amnesty was intended to ensure eligible voters could participate in the 28 December elections. An official from Insein Prison, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that prisoners would be freed starting Thursday.

Nepal issues Rs 100 note featuring map which includes areas claimed by India

KATHMANDU, PTI

Nepal's central bank on Thursday issued new Rs 100 currency notes featuring a revised map that includes the Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura territories, regions that India maintains belong to it.

The new note from the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) bears the signature of previous Governor Maha Prasad Adhikari. The date of issuance of the bank note is 2081 BS, which denotes the previous year, 2024.

In May 2020, the K P Sharma Oli-led government unveiled a new political map, showing Lipulek, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas as Nepal's territory. Later, it was endorsed by the Parliament.

India reacted sharply to Nepal's move at the time, calling the revised map a "unilateral act" and cautioning Kathmandu that such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be acceptable to it. India maintains that Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura belong to it.

The new Rs 100 note features a map of the country, including the controversial Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura areas, which India has termed an "artificial enlargement". PTI

Talking about the updated version of the map, an NRB spokesperson on Thursday said that the map was already in the old Rs 100 bank note, and it has been revised as per the government's decision. Among various denominations of bank notes, such as Rs 10, Rs 50, Rs 500, and Rs 1,000, only the Rs 100 currency note bears Nepal's map, he clarified.

Nepal's new Rs 100 bank note features Mt Everest on its left side, while a watermark of Nepal's national flower, Rhododendron, is on the right.

A faint green colour map of Nepal is in the background at the centre of the bank note. The Ashoka Pillar is printed near the map with the text "Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha."

On the back side of the currency, there is a picture of a horned rhino. The bank note also has a security thread and an embossed black dot, which helps blind people to recognise it. Nepal shares a border of over 1850 km with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, UP and Uttarakhand.

Hasina gets 21-year jail term in B'desh graft cases

DHAKA, PTI: A Bangladesh court on Thursday sentenced deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to 21 years in jail in three corruption cases related to irregularities in allocations of land in a government housing project.

Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun of Dhaka Special Judge Court-5 sentenced 78-year-old former premier to seven years each in three cases of corruption in the Rajuk New Town Project in Purbachal, totalling 21 years. The judge said Hasina would serve them consecutively.

The judge also fined Hasina Taka one lakh in each case, or 18 months more in prison if she failed to submit the amount. Judge Mamun also sentenced Hasina's son Sajib Wajed Joy and daughter Saima Wazed Putul to five years imprisonment each in the cases filed against them in the housing project near the capital. Joy and Putul were fined Taka one lakh each, or one month more in case of default. "The plot was allotted to Sheikh Hasina without any application and in a manner that exceeded the legally authorised jurisdiction," Judge Mamun said while delivering the judgment.

The judgement came 10 days after Hasina was sentenced to death in absentia by a special tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year. Hasina maintains the charges against her are "politically motivated".

Hasina has been living in India since August 5 last year. She was earlier declared a fugitive by a court.

Apart from the Hasina family, 20 others, including former junior minister for housing, Sharif Ahmed, and officials of the housing ministry and Rajdhani Unyan Kartripakkah, were tried in the cases, and except one, all were sentenced to varying prison terms.

Non-Europeans to pay 45% more to visit Louvre from next year

PARIS, AFP: The Louvre on Thursday decided to increase ticket prices for non-European visitors by 45%, the Paris museum and staff unions told AFP.

People from outside the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway will now have to pay 32 euros ($37) — an extra 10 euros — from January 14, they said.

French authorities on Tuesday arrested four more people in the probe into last month's spectacular daylight theft of imperial jewels from the Louvre museum, the top Paris prosecutor said.

"They are two men aged 38 and 39, and two women aged 31 and 40, all from the Paris region," Laure Beccuau said.

On October 19, a four-person gang raided the Louvre, the world's most-visited art museum, in broad daylight, taking just seconds minutes to steal jewellery worth an estimated $102 million before fleeing on scooters.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Leo XIV with Turkey's President Recep Erdogan at the presidential palace in Ankara on Thursday. AP/PTI

Pope Leo begins first foreign tour with visit to Turkiye

Pope Leo XIV arrived in Turkiye on Thursday on his first foreign trip, fulfilling Pope Francis' plans to mark an important Christian anniversary and bring a message of peace to the region at a crucial time in efforts to end the war in Ukraine and ease Mideast tensions, AP/PTI reports from Ankara.

Leo's charter plane landed at Ankara's international airport. Later, he had a meeting planned with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and a speech to the country's diplomatic corps. He'll then move late Thursday on to Istanbul for three days of ecumenical and interfaith meetings that will be followed by the Lebanese leg of his trip. Leo's visit comes as Turkiye, a country of more than 85 million people of predominantly Sunni Muslims, has cast itself as a key intermediary in peace negotiations for the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. Ankara has hosted rounds of low-level talks between Russia and Ukraine and has offered to take part in the stabilisation force in Gaza to help uphold the fragile ceasefire, engagements Leo may applaud in his arrival speech.

Thailand floods claim 82 lives

The death toll from severe flooding in southern Thailand has risen to 82 as floodwaters began to subside on Thursday, AP/PTI reports from Bangkok.

About 1 million households and over 3 million people have been affected by floods triggered by torrential rain in 12 southern provinces, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said on Thursday. The flooding, which began over the weekend, submerged vast areas and caused deaths in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Patthalung, Songkhla, Trang, Satun, Pattani and Yala provinces. Floodwaters had receded in many of the provinces by Thursday morning, but water levels remained high in some areas, including Pattani and Nakhon Si Thammarat.

The Marksmen aerobatic team from South Africa performs during the Aero Asia 2025 in Zhuhai, China, on Thursday. AFP

US, Russian crew blasts off to ISS

A US-Russian crew of three began a mission to the International Space Station aboard a Russian spacecraft following a successful launch on Thursday, AP/PTI reports from Moscow.

A Soyuz booster rocket lifted off at 2:27 pm local time from the Russia-leased Baikonur launch facility in Kazakhstan to put the Soyuz MS-28 into orbit. The spacecraft carried NASA astronaut Chris Williams and two Russian crewmates, Sergei Mikaev and Sergei Kud-Sverchkov. The craft docked at the International Space Station approximately three hours after liftoff at 5:34 pm local time. All three are expected to spend about eight months at the orbiting outpost. NASA said this is the first spaceflight for Williams, a physicist, and Mikaev, a military pilot.

Imran in 'good health' inside jail

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan is in "completely good health inside Adiala Jail", the jail authorities said on Thursday, rejecting rumours on social media about his medical condition, PTI reports from Lahore.

"The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership has been informed regarding Imran Khan's health. All necessary care is being provided to the PTI chief," the Adiala Jail administration said in a statement issued here on Thursday. Khan, 73, has been in jail since August 2023 in multiple cases. Several social media accounts on X have shared unverified claims of Imran Khan's death, with some foreign media also reporting on the alleged rumours about his health. The trend 'Where is Imran Khan?' was also trending on X on Thursday morning.

Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the Lebanese village of El Mahmoudiyeh on Thursday. The strikes against Hezbollah comes despite the year-old ceasefire deal. AFP

Able-bodied husband bound to pay maintenance: HC

Court says man cannot escape responsibility on grounds of unemployment

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

In a significant ruling, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court has said that an able-bodied husband cannot escape the responsibility to pay maintenance to his wife on the ground that he is unemployed.

A single bench comprising Justice Saurav Lavania gave this ruling a few days back while dismissing a criminal revision challenging a Family Court order directing him to pay Rs 2,500 per month as interim maintenance amount to his wife.

"It is the sacrosanct duty of the husband to provide financial support to the wife and to the minor children. The husband is required to earn money even by physical labour, if he is able-bodied and cannot avoid his obligation except on the legally permissible grounds mentioned in the statute," the court said.

"The husband is required to earn money even by physical labour, if he is able-bodied and cannot avoid his obligation except on the legally permissible grounds mentioned in the statute"

"It has been held that the object of maintenance proceedings is not to punish a person for his past neglect, but to prevent vagrancy and destitution of a deserted wife, by providing her food, clothing, and shelter by a speedy remedy. As settled by this Court, Section 125 CrPC is a measure of social justice and is specially enacted to protect women and children. It also falls within the Constitutional sweep of Article 15(3), reinforced by Article 39 of the Constitution of India," it added.

The wife had contended that she got married to the revisionist in November 2013 in Punjab's Jalandhar. She further said that her in-laws and husband used to torture her for dowry and that she was assaulted in February 2021 and left alone in a rented room for several days. Her brother later took her to Lucknow.

She later filed a petition in a family court seeking maintenance and claimed that her husband dealt in fruits and earned Rs 1 lakh per month. The husband, however, contended that his business had closed and he had no income. The court directed the husband to pay Rs 2,500 per month as maintenance.

Top court seeks long-term fix for Delhi pollution

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday acknowledged the severe air pollution in New Delhi and said a long-term, expert-led solution was required to address the crisis.

"What magic wand can a judicial forum exercise? I know this is hazardous for Delhi–National Capital Region (NCR)," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said, presiding over a bench that also included Justice Joymalya Bagchi.

The court agreed to hear on December 3, 2025, a plea relating to the deteriorating air quality.

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, assisting the bench as amicus curiae in the air pollution matter, submitted that the situation in Delhi-NCR was "alarming". She described it as a health emergency.

The bench said only domain experts could offer real solutions, and emphasised that these must be long-term. "The issue is what the solution is. We need to identify the reasons, and the solutions can be given only by domain experts. We hope and expect that long-term measures are found," the bench said. "Tell me what we can direct. We issue some directions and expect to breathe clean air immediately. We must see what solutions are needed in each region. Let us see what the government has constituted in terms of committees," the court added.

The court said pollution issues were often listed ceremonially during the Diwali season but stressed the need for regular monitoring. It assured that it would now take the matter up on a continuous basis.

The CJI on Wednesday explored the possibility of conducting Supreme Court hearings in virtual mode due to the severe pollution, noting that he felt unwell after an hour-long morning walk.

On November 19, the court asked Commission for Air Quality Management to consider directing schools in Delhi-NCR to postpone open-air sports events scheduled for November–December 2025 to "safer months" due to toxic air levels.

BJP-Sena rift intensifies amid Rane vs Rane

MUMBAI, DHNS: The war of words between the BJP and the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena intensified on Thursday after state BJP president Ravindra Chavan made a cryptic remark that he must "save the alliance" until December 2.

December 2 is when 246 municipal councils and 42 town panchayats go to polls.

While the BJP and Shiv Sena are contesting against each other in several places, the situation has turned tense in Sindhudurg district, the stronghold of the Rane family.

Neither CM Devendra Fadnavis nor Shinde commented on the issue.

In recent months, political differences between the Rane brothers — Nilesh Rane and Nitesh Rane — appear to have deepened. Nilesh and Nitesh are the sons of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg BJP MP Narayan Rane, a former CM.

The development has emerged as a matter of concern for BJP and the Shiv Sena.

Chavan's statement comes against the backdrop of developments in Sindhudurg, where three nagar parishads — Sawantwadi, Vengurla and Malvan — and one nagar panchayat, Kankavli, are set to go to polls.

The issue escalated when Nilesh Rane barged into the house of BJP worker Vijay Kenavadekar in Malvan and called in the police to seize cash found on the premises. According to Nilesh, the money, around Rs 15 lakh, was meant for distribution ahead of next week's election.

Narrow escape for train as speeding truck falls on tracks in UP

LUCKNOW, DHNS

A sand-laden dumper fell on the railway track in the Burhwal-Gonda section of the North Eastern Railway in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district, disrupting the movement of trains on the route.

According to police sources, the driver of the dumper lost control while passing over an overbridge near Aganpur village, and the dumper fell onto the tracks below after breaking the railings late on Wednesday night. The passengers travelling in Garib Rath Express, which was passing on the other track, had a close shave as the dumper narrowly missed it. The driver of the train applied the emergency brakes and brought it to a halt.

Some passengers, apparently in panic, who said they heard a loud sound, got down from the train thinking that there was an explosion.

The passengers were safe though the driver of the dumper sustained serious injuries and was admitted to the hospital, police said. He was identified as Pankaj Kumar, a resident of the neighbouring Gonda district.

The mishap damaged the overhead power lines and the tracks, bringing the movement of trains in the section to a halt.

Several long-distance trains were diverted to other routes, sources said. Efforts were on to restore traffic in the section.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

SOME OF MY FRIENDS HAVE AN A.I. CHATBOT TO TALK TO, AND IT TALKS BACK TO THEM
BUT THERE ARE REAL PEOPLE THEY COULD BE TALKING TO!
I KNOW
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MY A.I. CHATBOT FRIEND SAID, TOO!

Hagar The Horrible

HEY! IT'S MY FAVORITE BANK MANAGER! HOW'S BUSINESS?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A CASHIER!
I THOUGHT YOU HIRED A FRIEND OF MINE LAST WEEK!
HE'S THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR!
SORRY

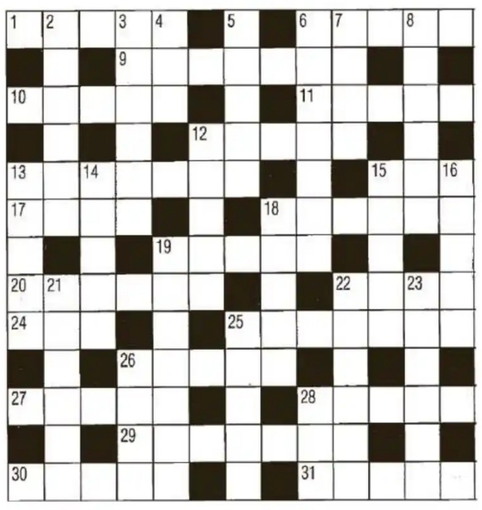
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

I'VE PLAYED AGAINST "CRYBABY" BOOBIE BEFORE! IT'S AN EXPERIENCE!
HER BROTHER, BOBBY BOOBIE, DOESN'T SAY MUCH, BUT SHE COMPLAINS ABOUT EVERYTHING
JUST DON'T LET HER GET TO YOU...JUST LET IT ALL GO IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER...
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, PARTNER!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12298



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 John, perhaps, born to drift out West (5)
6 Like Odin, he rebuilt a town (5)
9 Some chump suffered when brought low! (7)
10 Cash in hand at the angling shop? (5)
11 Decorate sailors with some fuss (5)
12 People who put Leslie out of the race (5)
13 Though pretty, she possibly bored us (7)
15 Scuba-diving youngster? (3)
17 Fluids swirling in the sink (4)
18 Plead with a person in a case of dismissal (6)
19 One singer in three? (5)
20 Associated a boy with a ballad (6)
22 It's eaten at times (4)
24 Left the Italian girl (3)
25 Grenade explosion to drive one mad! (7)
26 Complaint of being noisy all the time? (5)
27 Grace Darling's tree (5)
28 Protection for a pub in the outskirts of Paisley (5)
29 Managed to go ahead in the city (7)
30 My little boy's name (5)
31 Usually colourful weird tale by a party leader (5)

DOWN
2 This implies eager anticipation of something to wear (4,2)
3 Points out healthy animals (6)
4 Head teachers' union? (3)
5 Ran away to sea! (5)
6 Is it on the windy side? (7)
7 They're not even against you! (4)
8 Fighter plane's weapon? (6)
12 Invited to a bit of lunch with a leftist (5)
13 Figure a shifty liar's about to be a competitor (5)
14 Jolly Roger's just a bonehead! (5)
15 Cold cooker for witches! (5)
16 Girl flier going round the corner on the left (5)
18 Nice place to be with a bird? (5)
19 Where Iranian capitalists can possibly lose heart (7)
21 It's probable such lads have been on TV (6)
22 Is he of service to a miner maybe? (6)
23 Business information absorbed by a woman (6)
25 Condescend to struggle with a bit of weeding (5)
26 Game to go a long way for love (4)
28 Music to drink in? (3)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Took an exam again (5)
6 Bear (5)
9 Pirate (7)
10 Play guitar (5)
11 Poor (5)
12 Heather (5)
13 Sharply (7)
15 Beer (3)
17 Aquatic bird (4)
18 Restraint (6)
19 Viper (5)
20 Secret (6)
22 Healthy (4)
24 Floor covering (3)
25 Lubricated (7)
26 Yields (5)
27 Detest (5)
28 Hidden store (5)
29 Runaway (7)
30 War-horse (5)
31 Wear away (5)

DOWN
2 Landed property (6)
3 Perception (6)
4 Male cat (3)
5 Money-lending (5)
6 Squeezer (7)
7 Region (4)
8 Easy task, informally (6)
12 Evade (5)
13 Vapour (5)
14 Upright (5)
15 Book of maps (5)
16 Strayed (5)
18 Dreads (5)
19 Irritated (7)
21 Long-eared mammal (6)
22 Horse's headgear (6)
23 Under contract (6)
25 Type (5)
26 Centre (4)
28 Regard (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12297

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Ac-C-use 7, Inquests 8, Seance 10, Stamp 13, Nest 14, Kiwi 15, Disc 16, Peg 17, Lea-p 19, Aped 21, Sandpaper 23, Mint 24, Even 26, Wa-X 27, Acre 29, Car-t 32, Oils 33, Serge 34, Single 35, Aspirant 36, Veneer.
DOWN: 1, Min(i)sk(irts) 2, Squaw 3, Keep 4, Asses 5, C-hat 6, Sack-Ed. 9, Es-cape 11, Tip 12, Mila-N 13, Nippers 15, Dad 16, Per 18, Entail 20, Pence 21, Six 22, Ave 23, Marine 25, Erg 28, C-Lear 30, Arias 31, Teeth 32, Ogle 33, Sail.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Superb 7, Pie chart 8, Egrets 10, Eclat 13, Neat 14, Tool 15, Bill 16, Bid 17, Twig 19, Loan 21, Neighbour 23, Tarn 24, Tips 26, Web 27, Twin 29, Trap 32, Here 33, Aside 34, Future 35, Cardigan 36, Remark.
DOWN: 1, Upset 2, Hello 3, Chat 4, Steel 5, Port 6, Retain 9, Gallop 11, Cow 12, Alter 13, Nightie 15, Big 16, Bar 18, Winter 20, Ousts 21, Nab 22, Bin 23, Tenure 25, Wad 28, Wreck 30, Rings 31, Penny 32, Hula 33, Adds.

◆SU-DO-KU-6763◆

	2			4	5			7
4	8	9	2	1	7			
	6							
		7		3	9		6	
5			4		6			3
	1		7	5		4		
							7	
			5	7	2	6	9	1
1			9	8			3	

easy

SOLUTION TO 6762

9	1	4	5	6	7	2	8	3
6	5	8	3	2	9	7	4	1
2	3	7	8	4	1	6	5	9
7	9	6	4	1	2	8	3	5
1	4	3	7	8	5	9	6	2
5	8	2	6	9	3	1	7	4
4	7	1	9	3	8	5	2	6
8	6	9	2	5	4	3	1	7
3	2	5	1	7	6	4	9	8

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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A1 A1 A1 G2 M3 M3 A1 — Double Word Score
E1 E1 O1 K5 O1 Y4 H4
O1 O1 T1 U1 H4 S1 Y4
U1 S1 T1 C3 T1 S1 O1 — 2nd Letter Triple

RACK 1 | RACK 2 | RACK 3 | RACK 4

PAR SCORE 75-85
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

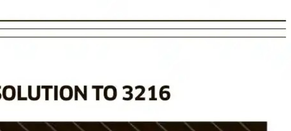
A1 U1 T1 H4 O1 R1 S1 — RACK 1 = 80
C3 A1 S1 T1 I1 N1 G2 — RACK 2 = 80
P3 A1 R1 T1 O1 N1 — RACK 3 = 24
C3 H4 A1 G2 R1 I1 N1 — RACK 4 = 89
PAR SCORE 180-190 — JUDD'S TOTAL 273

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IMRNO
NYIAR
RHGTAE
ULDPXE


I had to go a little deeper. You've put on a few pounds since last time. Hopefully, this won't be pointless.
Stop poking fun at me!
HE DIDN'T APPRECIATE THAT THE JOKING ACUPUNCTURIST WAS ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DROOP EAGLE ACCENT FAMILY
Answer: They offered to co-sign to help her get the new car, but she decided to — GO IT "A-LOAN"

HITORI-3217

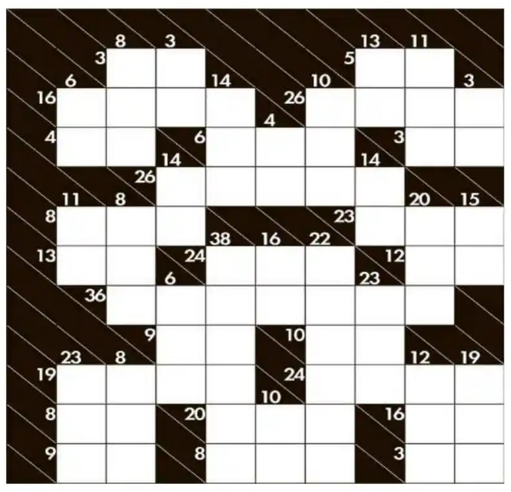
6	6	7	8	1	2	5	3
6	5	1	1	7	2	4	7
1	3	6	2	6	5	1	1
3	7	6	1	4	1	8	6
1	2	3	6	6	8	1	4
8	1	6	7	2	1	3	5
1	6	2	6	3	4	7	6
4	8	1	5	1	3	1	7

SOLUTION TO 3216

8	■	4	1	■	5	6	7
2	6	■	8	7	4	■	5
■	2	6	5	■	7	8	■
5	7	1	■	3	2	■	4
■	1	■	4	6	8	7	2
4	8	3	■	2	■	5	■
■	5	■	2	■	6	1	8
7	4	8	6	1	■	3	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

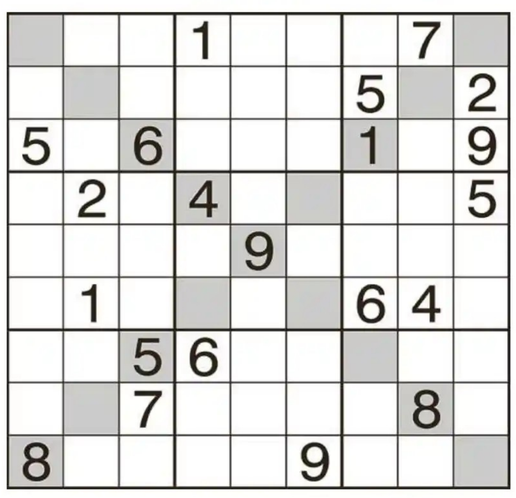
KAKURO- 3217



SOLUTION TO 3216

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3749



SOLUTION TO 3748

7	2	3	9	5	4	6	1	8
6	1	4	8	3	2	9	5	7
5	9	8	6	7	1	2	4	3
9	4	7	2	8	3	5	6	1
2	5	1	7	6	9	3	8	4
3	8	6	1	4	5	7	9	2
1	3	9	5	2	8	4	7	6
8	7	2	4	9	6	1	3	5
4	6	5	3	1	7	8	2	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Sensex closes marginally up after scaling record highs

During the day, hits high of 86,055.86 amid global trends

MUMBAI, PTI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty scaled fresh lifetime highs in intra-day trade on Thursday, before paring some gains to close marginally higher amid positive global trends on growing hopes of a US Fed rate cut and foreign fund inflows.

Rising for the second day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 110.87 points or 0.13% to settle at 85,720.38. During the day, it hit a record high of 86,055.86, reflecting a jump of 446.35 points or 0.52%. However, profit-taking by investors in the second half dragged the index from record high levels.

The earlier lifetime high of the benchmark was 85,978.25, hit on September 27, 2024.

The 50-share NSE Nifty ended marginally higher by 10.25 points or 0.04% at 26,215.55. During the day, the benchmark rallied 105.15 points or 0.40% to hit an all-time high of 26,310.45. The broader index had earlier scaled its record intra-day high of 26,277.35 on September 27, 2024.

Among Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech and HDFC Bank were the major gainers. However, Maruti, Eternal, UltraTech Cement and State Bank of India were among the laggards.

"Indian markets steadied after a volatile session where both the Nifty and Sensex briefly touched record highs before profit booking ensued," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index settled in positive territory. Equity markets in Europe were trading marginally lower. US markets ended higher on Wednesday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 4,778.03 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also purchased stocks worth Rs 6,247.93 crore in the previous trade.

"Indian markets soared to record highs on Thursday, lifted by a sharp improvement in global risk appetite amid rising expectations of an interest-rate cut by the US Federal Reserve. The upbeat sentiment across global equities provided a strong tailwind for domestic markets," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

The BSE small-cap gauge dipped 0.38%, and mid-cap ended marginally down by 0.01%. BSE Financial Services climbed 0.31%, followed by BSE Focused IT (0.24%), IT (0.20%), bankex (0.15%) and teck (0.03%).

Realty dropped 0.76%, energy (0.55%), consumer discretionary (0.48%), capital goods (0.48%) and consumer durables (0.45%). So far this year, the BSE benchmark has jumped 7,581.37 points or 9.70%, and the Nifty zoomed 2,570.75 points or 10.87%.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, dipped 0.05 per cent to USD 63.10 per barrel.

Indian economy enters H2FY26 on stable footing: FinMin

National Statistics Office to release Q2 GDP data today

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After posting better-than-expected growth of 7.8% in the first quarter and projected expansion of around 7% in July-September period, the Union Finance Ministry on Thursday said the Indian economy has entered the second half of the 2025-26 on a stable footing, anchored by well-contained inflation, resilient domestic demand.

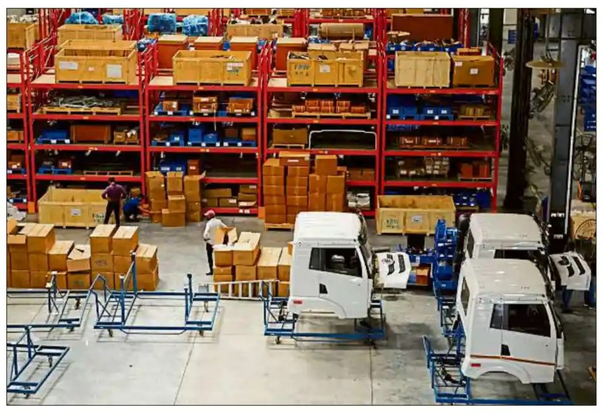
Referring to independent economic assessments, the Finance Ministry noted in its monthly economic review that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in the July-September quarter was likely in the range of 7-7.5%.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) is scheduled to release the quarterly estimates of GDP for the second quarter of the current financial year on Friday.

"Macroeconomic developments in October 2025 indicate a stable and resilient domestic economy, supported by easing price pressures, firm consumption trends and the early impact of recent policy interventions," the report prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs noted.

"Overall, the economy enters the second half of FY26 on a stable footing, anchored by well-contained inflation, resilient domestic demand and supportive policy dynamics, even as global uncertainties warrant continued vigilance," it said.

The report noted that the reduction in the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which



came into effect from September 22, has boosted economic activities.

It is reflected in the performance of various high-frequency indicators. E-way bill generation expanded by 14.4% during September and October 2025, on a year-on-year basis. At the same time, cumulative GST collection growth of 9% for Apr–Oct 2025 indicates that the underlying revenue stream has remained resilient, aided by firm consumption and improved compliance, the report noted.

"India's GST discussion is now gradually moving from 'revenue protection' to 'growth enablement'. The October data validates that a streamlined and rationalised GST rate structure can simultaneously support consumption, compliance, and fiscal stability. It marks an important step toward a more efficient and growth-oriented GST 2.0 framework," said Dhruva Advisors Partner Ranjeet Mahtani.

"Indicators such as e-way bills numbers, auto and two-wheeler sales, tractor demand, and UPI transaction values all point to a measurable and broad-based lift in consumer activity following the rationalisation," he added.

Most analysts expect that the Q2 GDP numbers may outshine the Reserve Bank of India's forecast of 7%.

In its 'Economy Watch November 2025' report released on Thursday, EY India said the Q2 growth is likely to come above 7%.

The RBI has projected the second half of FY26 growth at 6.3%. Combining these three growth numbers, the annual growth for FY26 may turn out to be 6.8% or marginally higher, DK Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor, EY India, noted in the report.

"In the medium to long term, India may maintain a real investment (GFCF) rate of about 35% of GDP so that a real GDP growth in the range of 6.5-7% can be achieved on a sustained basis. This implies an increase of 1.3 percentage points in the GFCF rate from 33.7% in FY25 and only 0.4 percentage points from 34.6% in 1Q FY26," Srivastava said.

Aequs to float IPO on Dec 3; eyes Rs 670 cr via fresh issue

NEW DELHI, PTI: Aerospace parts contract manufacturing major Aequs would be launching its IPO comprising fresh issue of shares worth Rs 670 crore on December 3.

Its maiden public offering will conclude on December 5 and anchor investors will be allocated shares on December 2, according to the red herring prospectus. Apart from the fresh issue, the IPO will have an offer for sale of 2.03 crore shares by promoters and existing investors.

Funds raised from the fresh issue would be used to repay loans taken by the company and its subsidiaries — AeroStructures Manufacturing India and Aequs Consumer Products; purchasing equipment for the company and AeroStructures; and supporting future growth through acquisitions, strategic initiatives, and general corporate needs.

Earlier this month, Aequs raised around Rs 144 crore from SBI Funds Management, DSP India Fund and Think India Opportunities Fund as a part of a pre-IPO funding round.

SBI may not need equity capital for 6 years, says Setty

NEW DELHI, PTI

State Bank of India Chairman CS Setty has said that Rs 25,000 crore equity capital raised through the qualified institutional placement (QIP) route earlier this year would support Rs 12 lakh crore credit growth and maintain a capital adequacy ratio of 15% over 5-6 years.

On the debt capital side, he said the SBI would mobilise Rs 12,500 crore through bonds as part of a periodic exercise. "Even before this QIP was raised, our ability to fund credit growth has never been a problem. We wanted to strengthen the capital ratios, so we have done that. Our long-term strategy is to maintain CRAR at 15% and Common Equity Tier 1 at 12%," he said.

This kind of Capital to Risk Asset Ratio (CRAR) gives the bank the ability to fund advances over Rs 12 lakh crore, he said.

SBI Chairman CS Setty. PTI

"With a profit rate what we have today, if the same profitability is maintained for another 5-6 years, we may not require any capital raising, at least on the CET 1 part," he added.

SBI in July this year raised Rs 25,000 crore through a QIP of its equity shares, making it the largest QIP executed in Indian capital markets. Before this, the bank had raised Rs 15,000 crore equity capital again through QIP in June 2017.

As far as fund raising from Tier II bonds is concerned, Setty said the bank does it periodically to replace maturing papers, and this year, it would be raising another Rs 12,500 crore through such bonds.

The SBI chairman also expressed confidence in achieving its 3% net interest margin guidance even if the RBI decides to cut the repo rate by 0.25% in next week's monetary policy review.

Highlighting that the RBI decision next Friday will be a "close call", he said, the house view at SBI is pointing towards a shallow cut of 0.25%.

"...if a December rate cut is there, but our house view again is that it would be a shallow rate cut of 0.25%, so it may not have any significant impact on the margins," he said.

Portal to aid citizens claim unclaimed assets on cards

NEW DELHI, PTI : The Finance Ministry is working with the RBI to develop a unified portal to enable savers and retail investors to claim all unclaimed assets across asset classes such as bank deposits, pension fund, shares, and dividends, Department of Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju said on Thursday.

The portal is expected to be launched soon, he said at a mega camp on 'Aapki Poonji Aapka Adhikar' (Your Money Your Right) organised by Punjab National Bank.

"The Department of Financial Services is working with the RBI to develop a unified integrated portal for across all the regulators and to be coordinated by the RBI," he said.

To claim unclaimed assets, RBI has launched UDGAM portal, while Sebi and IRDAI have MITRA and Bima Bharosa portals, respectively. The integrated portal would make it easier for citizens to locate their unclaimed funds.

Lack of awareness

Lack of awareness has led to a huge amount of unclaimed assets sitting idle in accounts, he added.

With the government's constant thrust on financial inclusion and financial education, the government is trying to help citizens claim their rightful savings, he said.

Bullish on new demand in EV space, Mahindra unveils XEV 9S

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Charting its course in the electric mobility landscape with a diverse product stable and strengthening charging network, homegrown auto giant Mahindra launched its premium e-SUV, the XEV 9S, on Thursday.

Positioned as "India's first authentic electric origin 7-seater SUV", the XEV 9S has been developed ground-up on the INGLO architecture and is expected to push the boundaries of the country's disruptive EV space.

"A large part of the Indian mindset is that two extra seats (in a car) is a great optionality, especially for large families or those wanting to travel with friends. Our goal is to give our customers choice," Mahindra & Mahindra Executive Director (Auto and Farm Sectors) Rajesh Jejurikar said.

The SUV features a spacious three-row layout, a whisper-quiet drive experience, and multiple segment-leading technologies. It is powered by Mahindra's Artificial Intelligence Architecture (MAIA) and comes in six variants. Its advanced LFP battery — offered with a lifetime warranty — claims a real-world 500-km range. Mahindra has already seen strong traction in its EV lineup. Over the last seven months, the company sold over 30,000 EVs, including the BE 6 and XEV 9e, garnering around Rs 8,000 crore in revenue. "While the XEV 9e contributed roughly 60% to overall sales, BE 6 clocked the remaining 40%. We have received an amazing response from South India, while the West has done decently as well. We believe that the XEV 9S will be an attractive proposition in the North markets, where a segment exists with demand for the two extra seats and a large SUV design. The car will redefine the segment," Jejurikar said.

The automaker currently rolls out its born-electric vehicles from its Chakan plant. With the introduction of the XEV 9S, Mahindra expects to scale to 8,000 EV units a month, and sell close to 7,000 units across its EV portfolio by the end of this fiscal. "How much will it be?... It'll be a function of cannibalisation and so on," he noted. Mahindra currently sells between 4,000 and 5,000 EVs monthly.

In Q2 this year, EVs accounted for 8.7% of Mahindra's total sales, while for the industry, it was 5.5%, Jejurikar told *DH*.

On exports, Mahindra plans a cautious entry, first targeting right-hand-drive markets. "We believe that EV customers are far more open to newer brands coming in, so the ability to get brand traction is probably greater than conventional ICE models. But this hypothesis needs to be tested. There are a couple of countries we are studying at the moment," he revealed.

As part of its wider electrification roadmap, Mahindra will install 250 ultrafast charging stations with over 1,000 charging points by 2027 under its Charge_IN network. These will support 180 kW chargers capable of powering Mahindra's eSUVs from 20% to 80% in just 20 minutes.

Mahindra has priced the XEV 9S between Rs 19.95 lakh and Rs 29.45 lakh (ex-showroom). Bookings open on January 14, 2026, and deliveries begin on January 23.

Kellton acquires AI firm Kumori Tech for Rs 52.5 crore

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Karanjit Singh

Hyderabad-based tech consulting firm Kellton on Thursday announced acquisition of IT services company Kumori Technologies for Rs 52.5 crore in an all-cash deal.

"Upon completion of the investment, the company will hold 100% of the paid-up share capital of Kumori, and consequently, the latter will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kellton," the company said in a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges.

Kellton Chief Executive Officer Karanjit Singh said the deal is a part of Kellton's broader strategy to deepen its expertise in high-demand digital platforms. "The combined strengths of Kellton and Kumori will help enterprises move from fragmented tools to unified digital architectures powered by AI and automation. Together, we are enabling the next phase of digital transformation, one that prioritises resilience, scalability, and sustained business growth," he said.

The acquisition strengthens Kellton's global ServiceNow delivery capabilities and advances its vision of building integrated, intelligent automation ecosystems for enterprises worldwide, he added.

Kumori Technologies Founder and Managing Director Ravi Narang said, "Joining Kellton allows us to scale that mission globally. By combining Kellton's digital transformation expertise with our ServiceNow platform strengths, we are better positioned to help clients accelerate automation, improve decision-making, and create long-term value."

Share price of Kellton jumped after the announcement of the deal. It closed 0.57% higher at Rs 19.41 at the BSE. The stock rose to a high of Rs 19.90 in the intra-day.

Praxair India to invest Rs 210 cr in Karnataka, says MB Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS: Industrial gases major Praxair India will invest Rs 210 crore over the next three years in establishing liquid oxygen and nitrogen production units in Karnataka. The company accordingly signed an MoU with the state government on Wednesday, Industries Minister MB Patil announced.

During his official visit to the UK with a government delegation, Patil said that Praxair India will commence its investment in the current fiscal itself. He added that the state government will extend priority support, including land allocation, single-window clearances, and infrastructure facilitation.

Patil also held discussions with Helix Geospace, known for its helical-antenna technology used in aerospace, defence and drone applications, and with Oxford Space Systems (OSS), a manufacturer of satellite antennas. He said OSS has been asked to submit a detailed note to the government, outlining its specific requirements.

The minister also met India's High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami to discuss further industrial collaboration between Karnataka and the UK. They also explored opportunities to establish a 'UK Tech Park' in the KWIN City, which would significantly strengthen the ecosystem for R&D, innovation and advanced manufacturing. Patil added that the High Commissioner has assured support in engaging with UK-based companies and conveying their feedback to the state government.

Decathlon revamps store

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sports retail giant Decathlon on Thursday unveiled its revamped flagship store in Whitefield. The new 60,000 sq feet flagship integrates multi-sport infrastructure, expert coaching, community spaces, sustainable circular services and next-gen retail innovation under one roof.

The store features a comprehensive Omni Services Zone offering Second Life, a Level 3 Workshop, personalisation, and design stations. It also includes enhanced trial areas, immersive showrooms, and dedicated try-buy zones for hands-on exploration. Designed as a community sports hub, the store will host coaching sessions for kids and adults across basketball, football, skating, pickleball, and gymnastics, along with workshops.

MOVE OVER CIBIL...

Telangana plans alternative credit scoring mechanism

SNV SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana is moving towards enabling formal credit access for individuals without a CIBIL score, especially women from self-help groups (SHGs) and low-income households. The state government is developing an alternative credit scoring mechanism that uses non-credit data such as utility bill payments, e-commerce transactions, and government tax records to evaluate an individual's repayment discipline.

"This will allow lenders to confidently serve first-time borrowers using richer, real-time insights into financial behaviour. The composite alternative credit score will be generated through expert-led analytics that transform raw data into anonymised financial signals. This initiative aims to expand formal credit access for those currently excluded from the credit ecosystem," a senior Telangana government official told *DH*.

The state is expected to unveil the plan for the Telangana Information Bureau (TIB) for individuals that will develop the alternative credit scoring mechanism, a key part of its financial inclusion vision at the two-day 'Telangana Rising' Global Summit on December 8-9.

To support the new credit scoring framework, the government will establish the TIB, a consent-based digital information bureau designed to integrate alternative data sources and generate verifiable individual credit histories. "The objective of this bureau is to expand affordable formal credit access for credit-invisible households by building trustworthy financial profiles derived from non-traditional

data," the official added.

According to a 2025 World Bank's Global Findex report, India has made substantial progress in financial inclusion, with adult account ownership increasing from 35% in 2011, to 89% in 2024. However, access to formal credit has risen only modestly from 8% to 12%. Telangana mirrors this national trend, with over half of its Rs 2.03 lakh crore MSME credit potential still untapped, as per the Telangana State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) report of 2025.

The proposed TIB seeks to bridge this gap by establishing a secure, privacy-preserving, research-led data infrastructure. It will integrate verified administrative datasets, such as property registration, electricity payments, welfare transfers, and tax records to generate alternative credit scores for individuals and enterprises.

Only the derived score, not the underlying data, will be shared with lenders, ensuring that financial inclusion advances alongside strong data protection standards.

The Telangana Data Exchange (TGDeX), launched by the ITE&C Department, will serve as the state's foundational digital backbone for secure data-sharing, AI innovation, and governance modernisation. The TIB will operate within the TGDeX framework, leveraging its data repositories, AI model library, and sandbox testing environment to build and validate credit-scoring models using authenticated and anonymised datasets.

Telangana also plans to introduce a consent-driven data privacy and protection framework to ensure personal financial information is shared only with informed consent and protected from misuse or predatory lending. The initiative will work in close coordination with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to uphold transparency, consumer protection, and robust regulatory oversight.

PM inaugurates Skyroot campus

HYDERABAD, DHNS: PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the private space tech startup Skyroot's Infinity Campus in Hyderabad via video conferencing on Thursday.

Skyroot's Infinity Campus is a state-of-the-art facility with around 200,000 sq feet workspace for designing, developing, integrating and testing multiple launch vehicles, with a capacity to build one orbital rocket monthly. It is founded by Pawan Chandana and Bharath Dhaka, both IIT alumni and former ISRO scientists-turned entrepreneurs. In November 2022, Skyroot launched its sub-orbital rocket, Vikram-S, becoming the first Indian firm to launch a rocket into space.

F1 title race gets intense

DOHA, AFP: Max Verstappen is seeking a hat-trick of wins at the Qatar Grand Prix this weekend as this year's Formula One world championship reaches boiling point in the Arabian Gulf.

But he will know, better than most, that even with luck on his side he is unlikely to overhaul a 24-point deficit that separates him from McLaren's Lando Norris as they approach the final two events of the season.

Despite being disqualified along with McLaren team-mate and title rival Oscar Piastri, after finishing second at the Las Vegas Grand Prix last Sunday, Norris arrives in Qatar as favourite to lift his first title and clinch McLaren's first team-and-driver double since Mika Hakkinen's success in 1998.

SWIMMING STATE SHORT-COURSE

BAC swimmers dominate

Hosts win overall title; Nettakallapa Aquatic Centre finish as runners-up

BENGALURU, DHNS

Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre (BAC) were crowned the overall champions ahead of and Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre (NAC), who finished in the runners-up position, on the final day of the State Short-Course Swimming Championships here on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Surya JT of BAC and Mihika Dutta of Dolphin Aquatics bagged the individual honours in the Group I boys' and girls' sections respectively.

NAC swimmers bagged four medals on the final day, including two silver in medley relays.

Results (winners only unless mentioned): Boys: Senior: 100m freestyle: Dhanvith (Mangala) 57.39. **Group I (U-17): 100m freestyle:** Surya JT (BAC) 52.98. **Group II (U-14): 100m freestyle:** Shreyas Sunil (SwimLife) 58.67. **Group III (U-12): 100m freestyle:** Chiranth M (Ray Centre) 1:03.33.

Girls: Senior: 100m freestyle: Rishika MV (Elite Sports) 1:04.51. **Group I: 100m freestyle:** Tisya Sonar (BAC) 1:00.83; Vaishnavi G (NAC) 1:03.52, 3. **4x50m medley relay:** BAC A 2:10.96, 1; NAC A (Akanksha Tagadur, Vaishnavi G, Hitashree N, Aashvi Srinath) 2:13.10, 2. **Group II: 100m freestyle:** Tanvi Gaurav (SwimLife). 1:02.73. **4x50m medley:** SwimLife A 2:12.42. **Group III: 100m freestyle:** Shreya S Pujar (BSA) 1:06.01, 1; Unnathi A Rao (NAC) 1:07.40, 3; **4x25m medley:** BAC A 1:05.26, 1; NAC A (Sharanya PV, Unnathi Rao, Vidula R, Nayana Madhyastha) 1:08.29, 2.

Overall Championships: BAC 954.5 pts, 1; NAC 322, 2.

Individual Championships: Boys: Group I: Surya JT (BAC) 40 points. **Group II:** S Krish (BAC) 40. **Group III:** Lohitashwa Nagesh (Lakshyan) 35. **Girls: Group I:** Mihika Dutta (Dolphin) 40. **Group II:** Manya Wadhwa (Dolphin) 40, Tanvi Gaurav (SwimLife) 40. **Group III:** Shreya Pujar (BSA) 31.

Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre finished overall champions at the State Short-Course Swimming Championships in Bengaluru on Thursday.

NAC clinch double crowns

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre (NAC) completed a commanding outing at the Capt C Shanmugham State U-15 Championships Waterpolo on Thursday, clinching both the boys' and girls' titles.

In the boys' final, NAC secured a 7-5 win over Star Aquatics in a closely fought contest to lift the championship. Earlier, SwimLife Swimming Academy claimed the boys' bronze medal with a 12-9 victory over Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre (BAC).

In the girls' final, NAC edged past BAC 4-3 in a tight match to complete the title sweep. SwimLife earned the bronze with a dominant 16-3 win over Seaworld Aquatics..

Results: Boys: Final: NAC: 7 bt Star Aquatics: 5. **Third-place match:** SwimLife Academy: 12 bt BAC: 9.

Girls: Final: NAC: 4 bt BAC: 3. **Third-place match:** SwimLife Academy: 16 bt Seaworld Aquatics: 3

NAC's Sakshi Puranik scores the winning goal against BAC during the State U-15 Waterpolo Championships in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Niki, Saloni lead K'taka charge

BENGALURU, DHNS: Niki Prasad and Saloni shone with the bat and ball respectively to hand Karnataka a crucial seven-wicket victory against Assam in their elite Group C match of the Women's U-23 T20 Trophy in Sultanpur, UP on Thursday.

The victory keeps Karnataka (8 points from 3 matches) tied on points with second-placed UP, who lead by virtue of superior net run rate, while unbeaten Tamil Nadu (12 points) head the group with two matches left for each side. The group toppers, along with top second-placed runners-up from all five groups, will directly qualify for quarterfinals while the rest of the four runners-up will face off in the pre-quarterfinals.

Karnataka dominated all the departments in their latest outing as Saloni's 3/17 limited Assam's innings to 98/9 in 20 overs.

Brief scores: Assam: 98/9 in 20 overs (Gayatri Gurung 32, Jintimani Kalita 34, Saloni P 3-17) lt to Karnataka: 99/3 in 19.5 overs (Niki Prasad 49 n.o., Kaku Barman 2-25).

Credence wins feature event

MUMBAI RESULTS

Credence, from the stables of Shahzaan Shah and confidently ridden by Ramswarup, won the Royal Calcutta Turf Club Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races on Thursday.

1. Welcome Trophy - 1200M: Social Butterfly (Sandesh) 1; Majestic Warrior (Avinash Paswan) 2; Absolute Gorgeous (Pranil) 3; You (HM Akshay) 4; WB: 7-3/4, Shd, 3-1/2L; T: 1:10.85; TB: Dallas Todywalla; Fav: Social Butterfly.

2. KJK Irani Plate - 1600M: Fynbos (Trevor Patel) 1; Ultimo (Ajinkya) 2; Giacomo (Sandesh) 3; Emperor Roderic (C Umesh) 4; WB: 1-3/4, 1-1/4, 3-1/2L; T: 1:38.28; TB: Pesi Shroff; Fav: Fynbos.

3. Kiara Plate - 1400M: Kings Gambit (A Prakash) 1; Axlord (Antony Raj) 2; Treat (Neeraj Rawal) 3; Spanish Eyes (Trevor Patel) 4; WB: 5, 1/2, 3/4L; T: 1:24.20; TB: Pesi Shroff; Fav: Kings Gambit.

4. PB Avasia Plate - 1600M: Namiri (Trevor Patel) 1; Magical Moments (Mustakim Alam) 2; Little John (Sandesh) 3; Machiavellian (Antony Raj) 4; WB: 6-1/2, 1-1/2, 3-3/4L; T: 1:38.88; TB: Pesi Shroff; Fav: Namiri.

5. Royal Calcutta Turf Club Trophy - 1200M: Credencer (Ramswarup) 1; Irish Gold (Sandesh) 2; Its My Time (Trevor Patel) 3; Divine Star (NS Parmar) 4; WB: Shd, 2-1/2L, Nk; T: 1:10.37; TB: Shazaan Shah; Fav: Credence.

6. MD Petit Plate - 1000M: Applause (Bharat Singh) 1; Arbitrage (Haridas Gore) 2; We Still Believe (Pranil) 3; Maratha Admiral (NS Parmar) 4; WB: 2, 1/2L, Shd; T: 1:00.17; TB: Altamash Ahmed; Fav: Maratha Admiral.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 11w; 10, 10, 11p; Fc: Rs 25; Q: Rs 25; Shp: Rs 22; Thp: Rs 27; Tri: Rs 36 & 15; Ex: Rs 110 & 99.

II race: Rs 12w; 10, 17p; Fc: Rs 34; Q: Rs 34; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 30 & 10.

III race: Rs 18w; 11, 16, 12p; Fc: Rs 139; Q: Rs 106; Shp: Rs 50; Thp: Rs 36; Tri: Rs 447 & 126; Ex: Rs 1,166 & 473.

IV race: Rs 16w; 12, 29, 14p; Fc: Rs 116; Q: Rs 64; Shp: Rs 63; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 332 & 101; Ex: Rs : 1,037 & 646.

V race: Rs 17w; 13, 21p; Fc: Rs 94; Q: Rs 41; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 314 & 108; Ex: Rs 382 & 154.

VI race: Rs 36w; 16, 23p; Fc: Rs 166; Q: Rs 108; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 490 & 168; Ex: Rs 655 & 135.

Jackpot: Rs 273 (1347).
Runner-up: Rs 39 (4078).
Treble: Rs 88 (609).

Mountain Jewel for 1000 Guineas

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

Prasanna Kumar-trained Mountain Jewel, who won the Hyderabad Deccan Derby in her last start, is fancied to win the Zavaray S Poonawalla Bangalore 1000 Guineas, the first classic of the winter races to be run over a mile at the races on Friday. The first race starts at 2 pm.

1. Infinite Plate - 1200M: Moonveil 1, Starzella 2, Atman 3.

2. Kunchikal Falls Plate (Div II) - 1100M: Estefania 1, Glorious Spectre 2, Honest Desire 3.

3. Snap Plate - 1400M: Eagle Eye 1, Pole Star 2, Star Of India 3.

4. Hyderabad Silver Vase - 1600M: Emphatic 1, Global Influence 2, Kalamitsi 3.

5. Zavaray S Poonawalla Bangalore 1000 Guineas - 1600M: Mountain Jewel 1, Ice On Fire 2, Sunshine 3.

6. Kunchikal Falls Plate (Div I) - 1100M: Noble Cause 1, Run For The Sun 2, Eastern Gold 3.

7. Godavari Plate - 1400M: Mystical Queen 1, N R I Gold 2, Lorven's Glory 3.

Day's best: Eagle Eye.

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **I treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

BoB secure massive win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Arvind scored 14 points and Dinesh tallied one less as Bank of Baroda trounced Vivek's SC 104-54 in the quarterfinals of the State Association Cup Championship men's match at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

Results: Men: Quarterfinals: Bank of Baroda: 104 (Arvind 14, Dinesh 13) bt Vivek's SC: 54 (Sanjay 20); S Blues: 90 (Benjamin 20, Adithya 17) bt Beagles BC: 74 (Achintya 22, Ravi 22); Young Orion's SC: 114 (Arjun 22, Shashank 18) bt MNK Rao Park BC: 89 (Ajin 41, Faaz 18); DYES Bangalore: 100 (Manoj 27, Nithin 10) bt GST & Customs: 93 (Samyam 27, Vishnu 24).

Women: Semifinal league: Beagles BC: 51 (Sanjana 12) bt Mounts Club: 29 (Nidhi 11); South Western Railway: 61 (Ruth 20) bt Rajmahal BC: 43 (Aadhya 15, Nikitha 15).

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:CEE/BGKT/Tr(Op)Z/EE(C)/AEE(C)/2025-26/13785-92 Date:27-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites against **Bid Enquiry No:KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3039** Tender for Detailed Survey using modern techniques for the proposal of Conversion of Existing 110kV SC Line with New 110kV SC Line on DC Towers from 220/110kV Belagavi sub-station (Loc No.12) to 110kV LILO Point of 220/110/11kV Aequs sub-station for a distance of 31.11 Km in Belagavi District.

The bids will be received through Electronic Mode Only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **http://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04:30 pm** on **28.11.2025** Other details can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Ele.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL,
Near Sector No.45, Navanagar, Bagalkote-587103

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गुवाहाटी
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, GUWAHATI
(A statutory body under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI)
Changsari, Kamrup, Assam-781101, Website: www.aiimsguwahati.ac.in

No. 1-74/2022-23/AIIMS/GHY/ADMN./CONT-APPOINT/2280 Date: 27-11-2025

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR RECRUITMENT OF FACULTY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIOLOGY, CARDIOLOGY AND GENERAL SURGERY AT AIIMS, GUWAHATI ON CONTRACT BASIS.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Guwahati intends to conduct Walk-in-Interview for the post of Assistant Professor on Contractual Basis in the Departments of Anaesthesiology, Cardiology and General Surgery at AIIMS, Guwahati. The details of category-wise vacancies are as under:

Department	Post	Category	Total number of posts
ANAESTHESIOLOGY	Assistant Professor(Contractual)	UR-04, OBC-01	05
CARDIOLOGY	Assistant Professor(Contractual)	UR-01	01
GENERAL SURGERY	Assistant Professor(Contractual)	UR-01	01

Date and time of the interview	23.12.2025, 10:00 AM onwards
Venue	Executive Director Conference Hall, AIIMS, Guwahati.

For details of advertisement including application form, educational qualifications, age, and eligibility criteria etc., kindly visit the Institute's website i.e., **https://aiimsguwahati.ac.in.** Candidates are advised to visit AIIMS Guwahati website regularly for all updates regarding recruitment.

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS, Guwahati

The Superintendent of Police
Gadag District, Gadag
Behind New Bus Stand, Gadag-582101
(O) 08372-236260 - Mob: 94808 04401 Mail: spgdg@ksp.gov.in

No: Procument/tender/05/2025-26 Date: 27-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Superintendent of Police Gadag District, Gadag invites tenders in two cover system using KG document for "Supply Of Body Worn Cameras And Alcometer At Gadag District & Supply And Installation Of Digitally Printed Sign Boards, For Traffic Management"Amount of **Rs. 56,59,000/-** in E-Proc **Indent No. KSP/2025-26/IND0430 & E-Proc Indent No. KSP/2025-26/IND0431** Under at Gadag District at Various location "

Supplyer / Agency can download and submit the tenders through KPP portal at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents **Date:12-12-2025 upto 17.30 hrs.** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) **Date:15-12-2025 upto 11.00 hrs**

Postponement of calendar of events and corrigendum / addendum (if any) is only published through KPP portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/-Superintendent of Police
Gadag District,Gadag

DIPR/Gadag/410/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor,
Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road,
Bengaluru-560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383,
Website: www.kiadb.in

No.KIADB/JDTP/FCNo:41194/529/2025-26 Date:27.11.2025

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

KIADB has obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) for Establishment of 1.5 MLD Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) with 0.50 MLD Capacity RO Systems & ZLD facilities on Total Turnkey basis including Operation and Maintenance of Entire plant for a period of 10 years located at Bommasandra Industrial Area 4th Phase, Yarandahalli village, Bengaluru Urban District to an extent of 11,584.13 Sq.m by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on **25-11-2025.** The copy of Environmental Clearance available in the **https://parivesh.nic.in website.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1
KIADB, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/RO4058/AAPL/2025-26

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Ref: 1) No: EE/ RNR/UTP/PB-3/2025-26/2026 Dt 26-11-2025 &2046 Dt: 27-11-2025

SHORT TERM RETENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP- portal system)

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO KPPP platform shall submit the bid as per Ref in two cover Electronic document system for 1 Work under the head of account 4701,1 Work under the head of account 2701 for Tender amount of Rs.0.976 (without GST) crores. The details is as follows: Indent No: 3212,3423

(1)The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders From:27-11-2025 to 04-12-2025 5-00 pm (2) Last Date and time for tender queries before 01-12-2025 Upto 04.30 PM (3) Technical Bid will be opened On 05-12-2025 @05-30PM & financial Bid will be opened after the Approval Technical Bid/ financial Bid at office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the KPP- portal.

1299 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Dn, Ranebennur.**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/Tr(Op)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/6579 Dated : 26.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

1) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2299/CALL-3 for Replacement of existing 20KA, 1l/C+4F+1CB of 11kV PCVCB age old ABB make breaker by 25KA MEI make Breaker and providing 2 no's of additional breaker at 66/11kV **Haradanahally** S/s in Saligrama Taluk and Mysuru District. - **CALL-4. Category :** Others

2) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2300/CALL-3 for Replacement of obsolete 01 no of 66kV Class ABB make breaker of 66kV R.N.Pura line-2(Idle bay) at **220/66/11kV Kushalnagar R/s** in Kushalanagara Taluk, Kodagu District. **CALL-4. Category :** Others

3) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2301/CALL-3 for Providing Additional 02 no's 11kV Switchgears (PCVCB) at 66/11 kV **Antharasante** sub-station, KPTCL in HD.Kote Taluk, Mysuru District – **CALL-5. Category :** Others

4) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2302/CALL-3 for Providing 01 no of 11kV Switchgear (PCVCB) at 66/11 kV **B.Matakere** sub-station, KPTCL, Saraguru Taluk, Mysuru District. – **CALL-5. Category :** Others

5) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2289/CALL-3 for Replacement by providing 11 no's of age old/sluggish 18.3kA power gear make switchgear(MCVCB) by 11kV, 31.5kA MEI make switchgear(MCVCB) and providing additional 02 no's of Capacitor bank breaker at **66/11kV K R Nagar** S/s, K R Nagar Taluk, Mysuru District.-**CALL-3. Category :** Others

6) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2288/CALL-3 for Providing 02 no's of 11kV Breaker for load (MCVCB) at 66/11kV **Maragowdanahalli** sub-station, K R Nagar Taluk, Mysuru District.- **CALL-3. Category :** Others

7) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2287/CALL-3 for Providing 1 no of 11kV Breaker for bifurcation of Y operated/overloaded F3-Ganuru feeder at 66/11kV **Ravandur** sub-station, Periyapatna Taluk, Mysuru District.-**CALL-3. Category** : Others

8) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2526/CALL-2 for Providing 01 no of 11kV PCVCB MEI Make breaker for load bifurcation of F4-Kanchinakere IP feeder at 66/11 kV **Bherya** sub-station, KR Nagara Taluk, Mysuru- **CALL-2. Category :** CAT-I

9) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2527/CALL-2 for Providing 02 no's of 11kV Breaker for load bi-furcation at 66/11 kV **Bylakuppe** sub-station, KPTCL, Periyaptna Taluk, Mysuru District. - **CALL-2. Category :** Others

10) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2529/CALL-2 for Providing 2 no's of Additional 11kV Switchgear (MCVCB) at 66/11kV **Goluru (Geekalli)** sub-station, KPTCL, Nanjanagudu Taluk, Mysuru District. - **CALL-2. Category :** ST

11) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2530/CALL-2 for Providing 3 no's of additional 11kV Switchgear (MCVCB) at 66/33/11kV **Hanagal-Shetalli(Somwarpet)** sub-station, KPTCL, Somawarpete Taluk, Kodagu District. - **CALL-2. Category** : CAT-II(A)

12) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2531/ CALL-2 for Providing 1 no of 11kV Breaker for bifurcation of Overloaded F1-Habbanakuppe IP feeder at 66/11 kV **Kampalapura** sub-station, KPTCL, Periyaptna Taluk, Mysuru District. - **CALL-2. Category :** SC

13) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2533/CALL-2 for Providing 01 no of 11kV Breaker for load bifurcation of overloaded F2-Ramapura at 66/11 kV **Saligrama** sub-station, KPTCL, K R Nagara Taluk, Mysuru District. - **CALL-2. Category :** Others

14) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2581/CALL-2 for Providing Boundary compound and other allied works at 66/11kV **KIADB Mandya** sub-station, Mandya District.- **CALL-2. Category :** Others

15) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2582/CALL-2 for Providing compound wall in front of Line man Quarters Mandya- **CALL-2. Category :** CAT-II(A)

16) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2585/CALL-2 for Providing Boundary compound and other allied works at 66/11kV Srirangapatna sub-station, Mandya District- **CALL-2. Category :** others

17) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2482/CALL-2 for Providing water pipeline to earth pit and allied works at 66/11kV S/s at Hannur, Bandally, Ramapura, Martally, Cowdally, Yelandur, Sathegala, Kollegala, Madhuvanhally, Gundlupete and Santhemarahalli Chamrajnagar District **CALL-2. Category :** others

18) KPPP No. KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2486/CALL-2 for Drilling of New bore well and water supply system arrangement at 66/11 kV **Madhuvanahally** sub-station, Chamarajanagar District **-CALL-2. Category :** others

19) KPPP No. KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT2121/CALL-3 for Construction of Baffle wall and other allied works at 66/11 KV S/s **Megalapura**, Mysuru District **-CALL-3. Category :** others

The tender for the above work is invited through electronic mode. The interested bidders can obtain the application in electronic mode by paying the tender fee. The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" OR **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.11.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Elec.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana,
FTS Compound, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007.

NGEF (HUBLI) LTD., P.B. Road, Rayapur Dharwad-580 009
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Ph/Fax : 0836-2322656 Mobile No. 9141034819
E-mail : mdngef@yahoo.com, Website : www.ngefhubli.com
Date : 25-11-2025

Tender Notice (Through E-Procurement Portal)

Short term Tenders are invited for through the Government e-Procurement portal from eligible suppliers for the supply of DPC/ Enamel aluminium wire & DPC aluminium strip, required for 25, 63,100 & 250 kva transformers and Enamel copper for 3 phase induction motor . Interested and eligible bidders are required to submit their bids online as per the terms and conditions of the tender.

Sl No	Description of Item	Estimated Cost	EMD Amount
1	DPC/ Enamel aluminium wire and strip	Rs. **2.74** crore	Rs. **2.5** lakh
2	Enamel Copper	Rs. **1.36** crore	Rs. **1.5** lakh

Tender documents and other details can be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of the government of Karnataka on payment of application fee as per the e-Procurement rules https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further information , The undersigned office can be contacted during working hours.

The tender schedule dates under the e-procurement system are as follows

Tender Details	Date	Time
Date of Tender Publication	**26-11-2025**	11:00 AM
Last Date for Bid Submission	**26-12-2025**	5:00 PM
Opening of Technical Bid	**27-12-2025**	5:15 PM
Opening of Financial Bid	As per departmental schedule	—

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/918/2025-26

Sd/- Managing Director
NGEF (Hubli) Ltd.

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Greater Bengaluru Authority, Annexe-3 Building, N R Square, Bengaluru

No: DCF/PR-342/2025-26 **Date: 27.11.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Registrar, Council of Architecture, New Delhi has submitted an application to the undersigned for removal of trees standing at the campus of the Jnanabharati, Bengaluru University at Sy. No.28 of Nagadevanahalli, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South at an extent of 2 acres of land for Constuctin of Proposed State of Art Centre of Excellence Building.
The details are given below:

Name of the project	Construction of Proposed State of Art Centre of Excellence Building			
Name of the Agency	Council of Architecture, New Delhi			
Purpose for removal of trees	The trees are coming within the Project for Construction of State of Art Centre of Excellence Building			
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS Coordinates	**Bou -ndary**	**Latitude (N)**	**Longitude (E)**	**Location**
	1	12.943063	77.1502592	The trees are standing at the campus of the Jnanabharati, Bengaluru University. Bengaluru
	2	12.942973	77.5027170	
	3	12.943079	77.5025440	
	4	12.943089	77.502576	
Enumeration of trees • Total No. of trees standing in the project area	352 Nos (Annexure 1)	Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all **(www.bbmp.gov.in)**		
Mode of communication of comments* *(Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)*	**Address:** a. The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Sqaure, Bengaluru -02 **E-mail ID: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com** b. The Registrar, Council of Architecture, New Delhi **E-mail ID: registrar-coa@gov.in** # A Copy of the Comments communicated directly to Registrar, Council of Architecture, should also be marked to the Tree-Officer/DCF, GBA			
Deadline for Filling Objections	Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notification in Newspaper ***Objections/Comments/Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project**			

In view of the above, the suggestions/objections/comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer
& Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA Bengaluru

IN BRIEF

Bhaskar faces Manudev in final

▸ Veterans B Bhaskar and IH Manudev set up a final against each other in the State-ranking Senior men's billiards tournament after posting hard-fought wins at the KSBA on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Results (semifinals): B Bhaskar bt Sasha Sambi 4-3 (52-150, 151-95, 81-150, 151-101, 65-150 (96), 150-124, 150-80); IH Manudev bt ML Lakshman 4-2 (122-151, 136-150, 151-47, 152-73, 151-95, 151-50).

Ashif leads rampage

▸ Md Ashif took the centre stage with a brace as his side Government Pottery Town High School walloped St Aloysius High School 6-0 on the opening day of the Parikrma Champions League on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Results: St. Aloysius HS: 0 lt to Government Pottery Town HS: 6 (Md Ashif 10th, 39th, Jeffrey Kharpomtiah 17th, H. Lalrinpuia 20th, Sukham Nelson Singh 23rd, Wahengbam Yohenba Singh 43rd); Delhi PS East: 0 lt to Loyola HS, Margao: 1 (Joseph De Costa 18th). KISS (Bhubaneswar): 4 (Raju Mardi 4th, 17th, 18th, 40th) bt Cathedral HS: 0. Head Start: 2 (Ishaan Sreedhar 9th, 12th) bt Legacy School: 0. Delhi PS North: 3 (Imran Shujath Ali 11th, Yathaarth Mishra 26th, Aaron Thomas 40th) bt Bishop Cottons BS: 0. St. Joseph's BHS: 3 (Vedant Roy 5th og, Renith Vivan 26th, Atharva Hasabnis 32nd) bt Inventure Academy: 1 (Vedant Roy 31st). Greenwood High: 2 (Avanindra Naik 33rd, Aarush Goyal 37th) bt Step by Step HS, Udaipur: 0. Parikrma: 1 (Anthony Darwin R 40 sec) bt Ryan International: 0.

Nagal bows out Aus playoff

▸ India's top singles player Sumit Nagal bowed out of the Australian Open Asia-Pacific wild card play-off tournament after losing to Yunchaokete Bu of China in straight sets in the quarterfinals on Thursday, reports PTI from Chengdu, China.

Nagal, seeded sixth in the tournament, lost 2-6, 2-6 to the top-seeded Chinese opponent.

Afghanistan defeat India A

BENGALURU, DHNS: VK Vineeth's gritty half-century was not enough to save India A from a 65-run defeat against Afghanistan in their final league match of the U-19 Tri-Series here on Thursday. The result, however, had no bearing on the tournament standings.

The loss marked India A's second setback in the competition, both coming against Afghanistan, who had also handed them a six-wicket defeat earlier on November 1.

Afghanistan built a strong platform after being asked to bat, with skipper Mahboob Khan scoring 50 and Azizullah Miakhil contributing 60 to steer their side to a solid 233 for eight.

In reply, hosts India were bowled out for a measly 168 in 30.2 overs, despite a strong 62-ball 63 from Vineeth, studded with 11 fours and a six.

The chase began disastrously as opener Wafi Diamond Kachchi was run out by Azizullah Miakhil off the very first ball.

Brief scores: Afghanistan: 233/8 in 50 overs (Khalid Ahmadzai 30, Mahboob Khan 50, Azizullah Miakhil 60; Henil Patel 2-41, Kanishk Chouhan 3-42) bt India A 168 all out in 30.2 overs (Vineeth VK 63, Khilan Patel 29; Abdul Aziz 3-48, Salam Khan 3-35, Roohullah Arab 3-34).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy: AP vs Odisha, Bihar vs MP, Delhi vs TN **(all 11 am)**; Assam vs Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh vs Goa, Jharkhand vs Karnataka **(all 4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network** and **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

La Liga: Getafe vs Elche **(1:30 am, Saturday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

HOCKEY

Men's Jr World Cup: Oman vs Switzerland **(5:45 pm)**, India vs Chile **(8:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network** and **JioHotstar**.

TENNIS

Australian Open Asia-Pacific Wildcard playoff: Semifinals **(8:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network** and **Sony LIV**.

CRICKET TEST SERIES

Is Gambhir the right man to continue as Test coach?

Two whitewashes at home in a year renew scrutiny

MADHU JAWALI
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Gautam Gambhir has often expressed his dislike for the word transition. On Wednesday afternoon in Guwahati, however, he used that very term repeatedly after India suffered a heavy 408-run defeat against South Africa in the second Test. According to him, Indian cricket is going through a phase where both the batting and spin bowling units are experiencing transition while emphasising that this is the first time such a situation has occurred in both departments simultaneously.

He was obviously referring to the recent retirements of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and R Ashwin, which took place within a short period since December last.

There is some merit in his argument regarding the batting. In the second Test, India fielded Sai Sudharsan, Dhruv Jurel, and Nitish Reddy, who collectively had only 22 Tests to their names before the match. However, the transition theory does not hold as well when applied to spin bowling.

Spin has seen transitions before. When leg-spinning great Anil Kumble retired in November 2008, Harbhajan Singh became India's lead spinner until Ashwin arrived in November 2011. By then, Harbhajan's role was already diminishing and featured in only five more Tests after Ashwin's debut. Ravindra Jadeja joined the squad in 2012 while Amit Mishra remained in the picture.

Jadeja continues to excel and shows no signs of decline. Kuldeep Yadav has played only 17 Tests but has been part of the Test setup for nearly eight years. He cannot be described as inexperienced. He has even played more Tests than South Africa's Simon Harmer, who took 17 wickets in the two-match series. Washington Sundar has not yet bowled much in Test cricket but remains a viable third spinner if required. Most successful teams rarely have every player fully experienced at the same time. The real issue in the series was not transition but that South Africa's spinners outperformed India's.

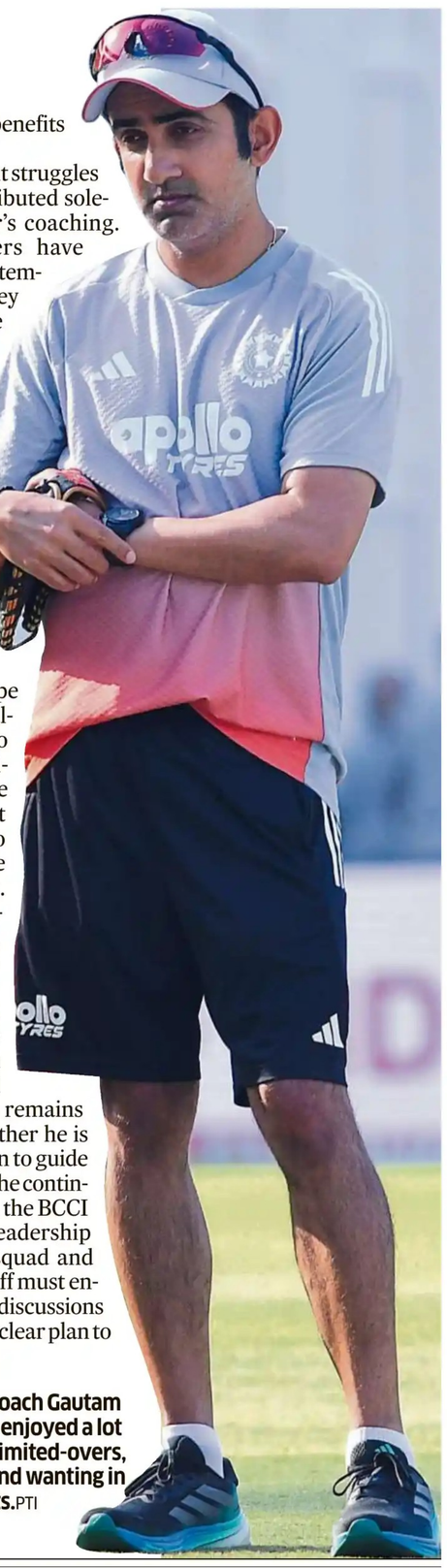
While the batting unit lacked experience, it could still have been more competitive. The team selection strategy leaned towards including all-rounders, regardless of whether they merited their places. All-rounders are a tremendous asset in white-ball formats because they offer depth and balance. They are even more valuable in Test cricket, but only when they can justify their selection based solely on either batting or bowling. The great all-rounders like Kapil Dev, Ian Botham, Imran Khan, Jacques Kallis, and in modern times Ben Stokes, could all command a place in the team purely through one discipline.

This leads to a crucial question regarding Nitish Reddy. If he bowls only 10 overs across two innings, he is effectively selected as a specialist batter. At this stage, he has not yet proved he can secure a place in the Test side solely on batting ability. Test cricket demands specialisation and skill sustained across long periods. Although Nitish scored a century in Australia, it came in a rather T20 style. Currently he remains a one-dimensional batter, and selecting too many players like him reflects a defensive mindset rather than a strategy designed to win Tests. Teams benefit greatly from batters who can bowl a little or bowlers who can bat respectably. But relying on bits and pieces players doesn't provide the requisite strength.

Compounding this issue is the lack of stability in selection. Players are frequently picked and dropped without clear reasoning, resulting in an unsettled dressing room. Nitish was initially released before the first Test in Kolkata so he could play the India A one-day series against South Africa A. He was then recalled after two matches once Shubman Gill suffered an injury. He was drafted in the XI after merely two days of preparation. Washington Sundar's situation is equally puzzling. Despite consistent batting performances, he has been shuffled in the order. He batted at No. 3 in the first Test but was pushed down to No. 8 in the second. Such inconsistent planning benefits no one.

India's recent struggles cannot be attributed solely to Gambhir's coaching. Several batters have displayed poor temperament in key moments. The collapse from 95 for one to 201 all out in the first innings of the second Test reflected more of mental lapses. Still, the coaching staff can't escape the responsibility for failing to build an environment where players are best prepared to succeed in the longest format.

This situation raises a broader question. Gambhir has achieved considerable success in white-ball formats, but it remains uncertain whether he is the right person to guide the Test side. If he continues in this role, the BCCI officials, the leadership group in the squad and the support staff must engage in honest discussions and establish a clear plan to move forward.



While head coach Gautam Gambhir has enjoyed a lot of success in limited-overs, he's been found wanting in Tests. PTI

India ready to prove their mettle

Sreejesh-coached colts begin campaign against Chile in Chennai

HITA PRAKASH
BENAGLURU, DHNS

India captain Rohit (sixth from right) poses with his counterparts from other countries on the eve of the Men's Junior Hockey World Cup to be held in Chennai and Madurai. HI MEDIA

POOL B FIXTURES

- Nov 28: India vs Chile
- Nov 29: India vs Oman
- Dec 2: India vs Switzerland

The current best under-21 hockey players in the world, most of whom could be potential future superstars of world hockey, have all assembled here in Tamil Nadu. They are at an age when the most crucial transition from junior days to senior ranks takes place and competitors from as many as 24 countries will line up on the field at the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup from November 28 to December 10 to prove their mettle.

The agenda for the hosts' team, coached by two-time Olympic bronze medal-winning goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, will be much the same going into the 13-day event spread across Chennai and Madurai. Led by defender Rohit, the world No. 2 Indian colts are one of the favourites to lift the trophy for the third time -- the previous two coming in 2001 (Hobart, Australia) and 2016 (Lucknow) when India last hosted the event.

While the home advantage and a team on high spirits following their silver medal-winning campaign at the Sultan of Johor Cup in Malaysia recently, act as the extra boosters, India are well aware of the challenges they will have to endure in the form of facing top teams such as Germany, Argentina, Spain, Netherlands, Australia in the knockouts. A big absentee will be Pakistan, interestingly the winners of the first-ever event that was held in 1979, as the neighbours withdrew citing security concerns following the escalating political tensions between the two countries this year.

With the team divided into six groups, the hosts are placed in Pool B and will begin their campaign against Chile on the opening day and Oman (replacement for Pakistan) on Nov 29 in Chennai before their third league game against Switzerland in Madurai. India will be expected to steamroll over these three opponents to advance to the last-eight stage where they will be joined by the other five pool toppers along with the two best second-placed teams.

Knowing Sreejesh and his 'giving it all and going all out' mentality, the 37-year-old's aggressive approach and his never-give-up attitude is sure to rub off on his wards. This could prove to be a key component, along with the support from a sea of fans expected to throng the stadium for every India match under lights. The home team, though, will miss the services of their most known face, Araijeet Singh Hundal, who was ruled out a few weeks ago due to a shoulder injury.

For the next generation of Indian players, a good performance will carry bigger rewards. Craig Fulton, the head coach of the senior national men's squad, has been vocal about giving deserving youngsters a change to join his side in the next few months which is packed with important assignments. The South African, currently in Malaysia with the Indian senior side for the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, and the think-tank of Hockey India are on the lookout for the next big India defender, midfielder, forward and goalkeeper. And they are sure to keep a close watch.

India squad: Goalkeepers: Bikramjit Singh, Princedeep Singh; **Defenders:** Rohit (capt), Amir Ali, Anmol Ekka, Talem Priyo Barta, Sunil Palakshappa Bennur, Shardanand Tiwari; **Midfielders:** Ankit Pal, Adrohit Ekka, Thounaojam Ingalemba Luwang, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur; **Forwards:** Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Arshdeep Singh, Ajeet Yadav, Dilraj Singh, Gurjot.

Tanvi, Manraj create a flutter

LUCKNOW, PTI

Manraj Sigh

World Junior Championships silver medallist Tanvi Sharma and Manraj Singh created a flutter at the Syed Modi International, stunning the former world champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan and HS Prannoy respectively to enter the quarterfinals here on Thursday.

The 16-year-old Tanvi, who had reached the US Open Super 300 final earlier this year, notched a morale-boosting 13-21, 21-16, 21-19 win over second seed Okuhara in a 59-minute thriller.

Manraj, 19, then delivered a sensational performance to oust Prannoy, the 2023 World Championships bronze medallist, 21-15, 21-18 in just 43 minutes, sending shockwaves through the men's singles draw. Top seed Unnati Hooda too booked her place in the last-eight with a commanding 21-15, 21-10 win over Tasnim Mir, while Mithun Manjunath outlasted sixth seed Tharun Mannepalli 21-16, 17-21, 21-17 in another all-Indian second-round contest.

Unnati will face seventh seed Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, who edged past Devika Sihag 16-21, 21-19, 21-17, while Mithun is set to take on Manraj, who had won Uganda International Challenge and Iran Fajr International Challenge early this year, in the quarterfinals.

Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth, the 2021 World Championships silver medallist, brushed aside Saneeth Dayanand 21-6, 21-16 to set up a quarterfinal clash with a fit-again Priyanshu Rajawat, who overcame BM Rahul Bharadwaj 21-16, 10-21, 21-12 in a hard-fought encounter.

Kiran George, Alap Mishra and Siddharth Gupta, however, bowed out after losing their respective second-round matches.

In women's singles, Isharani Baruah shocked sixth seed Polina Buhrova 21-15, 21-8 to move into the quarterfinals, where she will face Turkey's fourth seed Neslihan Arın. Tanya Hemanth and Anupama Upadhyaya, however, exited after second-round defeats. Defending champions Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand eased into the women's doubles quarterfinals with a 21-17, 21-12 win over compatriots Zenith Abigail and Likhita Srivastava.

Selvam settles Kiwi affair

IPOH (MALAYSIA), PTI: Selvam Karthi produced the winning goal in the last quarter as India defeated New Zealand 3-2 in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup here on Thursday.

India, who had eked out a thrilling 4-3 win against the hosts Malaysia on Wednesday, scored through Amit Rohidas (4th), Sanjay (32nd) and Selvam (**in pic,** 54th), while George Baker (42nd, 48th) netted twice for New Zealand.

New Zealand tried to dominate the midfield in the opening minutes but the Indian defence held firm. India had their first real chance through a well-crafted move that resulted in a penalty corner in the fourth minute and stalwart Rohidas made it count with a ferocious drag-flick to open the scoring.

India were denied a second goal after the New Zealand keeper deflected Abhishek's shot from close range, thus concluding a fast-paced first quarter. The Black Sticks showed a lot of purpose in the second quarter and even earned a penalty corner, but were thwarted by an alert Indian defence throughout the second quarter.

India began the second half on the front foot and doubled their lead through captain Sanjay, who converted a penalty corner in the 32nd minute. New Zealand earned penalty corners of their own but couldn't break through the Indian defence.

Pawan was sensational in the goal but his resistance was finally broken when Baker (42') helped New Zealand pull one back.

A statement display from Arsenal

PARIS, AFP

Liverpool slumped to an embarrassing 4-1 Champions League defeat at Anfield by PSV Eindhoven to pile more pressure on Arne Slot, while Arsenal ended Bayern Munich's unbeaten start to the season with a "statement" win on Wednesday.

Beleaguered English champions Liverpool suffered a ninth defeat in 12 games in all competitions as they crumbled against PSV. Liverpool conceded in just the sixth minute when Virgil van Dijk inexplicably handled the ball while appealing for a foul from a corner, with Ivan Perisic dispatching the resulting penalty into the corner. Slot's struggling side hit back quickly as Dominik Szoboszlai slotted in after visiting goalkeeper Matej Kovar could only parry Cody Gakpo's shot.

Arsenal's Noni Madueke (left) wheels away in celebration after scoring against Bayern Munich in their Champions League game on Wednesday night. REUTERS

Premier League leaders Arsenal maintained their 100 percent record in the competition this season by ending Bayern's, taking top spot in the 36-team table from the Bavarians with a 3-1 success.

Bayern fell behind at the Emirates in the 22nd minute when Jurrien Timber flicked Bukayo Saka's corner past a flailing Manuel Neuer.

But 17-year-old Lennart Karl became the first player to score against Arsenal in the Champions League this season, firing home from an excellent volleyed pass by Serge Gnabry.

Noni Madueke put Arsenal back in the lead in the 69th minute, though, before Gabriel Martinelli tapped into an empty net after Neuer raced out of his goal and was beaten to the ball near the halfway line.

Results: Pafos: 2 (Luiz 18th, Salisu 88 og) drew with Monaco: 2 (Minamino 5th, Balogun 26th); FC Copenhagen: 3 (Dadason 26th, Larsson 59th, Robert 73rd) bt Kairat Almaty: 2 (Satpayev 81st, Baibek 90th); Arsenal: 3 (Timber 22nd, Madueke 69th, Martinelli 77th) bt Bayern Munich: 1 (Karl 32nd); Atletico Madrid: 2 (Alvarez 9th, Gimenez 90+3) bt Inter Milan: 1 (Zielinski 54th); Eintracht Frankfurt: 0 lt to Atalanta: 3 (Lookman 60th, Ederson 62nd, De Ketelaere 65th); Liverpool: 1 (Szoboszlai 16th) lt to PSV Eindhoven: 4 (Perisic 6th, Til 56th, Driouech 73rd, 90+1); Olympiacos: 3 (Chiquinho 8th, Taremi 52nd, El Kaabi 81st) bt Real Madrid: 4 (Mbappe 22nd, 24th, 29th, 60th); Paris Saint-Germain: 5 (Vitinha 45th, 53rd, 76th, Ruiz 59th, Pacho 65th) bt Tottenham: 3 (Richarlison 35th, Kolo Muani 50th, 73rd); Sporting Lisbon: 3 (Quenda 24th, Suarez 31st, Trincao 70th) bt Club Brugge: 0.

Lohith 5/6 spell leads Vikram CC to victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lohith R's impressive 6/5 spell stood out as Vikram Cricket Club defeated Friends Cricket Team by six wickets in the KSCA Group I-IV Division League cum knockout tournament for Metro Shield.

LOCAL CRICKET

Lohith's fifer, backed by Akash's 4/22 spell, bundled out Friends CT for a mere 130 in 42.3 overs. His namesake ST Lohith (34 not out) then forged an unbeaten partnership with 50-up Benedict Badiger (61 n.o.) to ensure Vikram CC chased down the target by the 32nd over following initial hiccups.

Brief scores: Friends Cricket Team: 130 all out in 42.3 overs (Rishab Krish 51, Karthik Jayaram 38; Lohith R 5-6, Akash 4-22) lt to Vikram CC: 134/4 in 31.3 overs (ST Lohith 34 n.o., Benedict Badiger 61 n.o.; Yaseer Nihal 3-45).
Chamarajpet CC: 150 all out in 42.2 overs (Devaraj KN 33, Shanuddin PS 25, Mithun Maruthi 44; Vivek Seervi 3-24, Yasir Arafat 3-29, Abdul Changez 2-33) lt to Friends XI, Doddaballapura: 152/5 in 31.2 overs (Dhruv AS 48, K Akhil 31, Dharshan KV 29 n.o.; Vikash Kumar 2-42).
Bangalore Indian CC: 117 all out in 37.3 overs (Tarun Manohar 27, Shivendra Dalwale 26, Arun C 25 n.o.; Abhishek Rana 6-19, Dhanush TR 2-15) bt Gandhinagar Cricketers: 97 all out in 26.5 overs (Himanshu Rajput 32; Sumeet Karagaonkar 2-19, Sanjay Raja 5-14).
Kapali CC: 119 all out in 39.3 overs (S Sufiyan 46; Vinay N Sagar 3-24, Yodhan Hruday GS 3-13) lt to Blue Diamond Cricketers: 118/7 in 26.1 overs (Abhishek AS 26, Varun M 36, Vaishnav Sanghamiitra 25 n.o.; Kashif Khan 2-30, Vishal Reddy 3-23).
Lions CC: 136 all out in 43.1 overs (Ajay Sainis 34, Vinod Kumar 26; Prathap 2-19, Nitesh Gowda VR 4-19, Nihal Gowda K 2-18) bt Malleswaram United: 133 all out in 28.4 overs (Manish Benjamin John 48 n.o.; Hemaraj Purohit 4-32, Shashwat Yadav 5-15).
Spartons SC: 169 all out in 47.3 overs (Virender Singh Aujla 51 n.o., Ashok D 41; Lokesh Singh 2-21, Yeshwanth 3-34, Ajay HS 2-34) lt to National United: 172/1 in 39.2 overs (Jefin KP 50 n.o., Deepak Ugrappa 97).
Maharana CC: 197 all out in 47.5 overs (Supreeth Kumar 37, Prakhar Garud 43, Karan Umesh 33; Vinay Maiya UP 2-42, Hardhik Chandra 3-32, Raghavendra HS 4-35) lt to Ranji CC: 201/9 in 43.3 overs (Anand Kumar 85 n.o., Kalyanaram 53; Sriee Krish 3-27, Karan Umesh 2-48, Ajay Kurpad 4-30).
Jayanagar Colts: 221/7 in 50 overs (Abheet Kuthpady 57, Kaushik Udupa 66, Naveen 39 n.o.; Pavan Gokhale 2-33, Shameek Kolambkar 2-43) lt to Sapphire CC: 224/6 in 49.1 overs (Ravikumar M 41, Tanu B 29, Angadraj Hittalamani 96 n.o., Nitin Bhille 45; Kaushik Udupa 2-44, Sanju Dapalapur 2-35).
Standard CC: 236 all out in 48.5 overs (Aden D'Souza 28, Rishabh B 59, R Subash 45, Vaibhav Gurudutt 36; Neel Jain 2-33, Anirudh Deepak 3-34, Siddanth Navale 2-40) bt Eleven Brother's CC, Magadi: 210 all out in 46.4 overs (Supreme Gowda 41, Tejasveer Vohra 37, Siddanth Navale 34, Anirudh Deepak 48; Mohammed Aameer 3-35, Tanishq 3-32).
Citizen Cultural CA: 302/9 in 50 overs (D Raghavendra 41, Bharath Prashanth 26, Ravi 49, Vishnu Prasad G 55, Devaraj Koti 54 n.o.; Raj Pande 2-42, Hariharan Ganesh Ramani 3-64) bt Young Challenging Cricketers: 291 all out in 50 overs (Anubhav Chatterjee 78, Naveen KB 71, Ashmit Shetty 40, Devanjan Sarkar 30; Saleem A S 6-53, Devaraj Koti 2-65).
Sparklers CC: 140 all out in 39.5 overs (Rahul Y 37; Harsha KS 3-0, Sandipan Roy 2-26, Kiran Kumar P 3-24) lt to Wadiyar CC: 141/4 in 33.5 overs (Ajay Rammohan 27, Gaurav S Upadhyaya 41; Deepak Gowda 2-39).
Hanumanthnagar CC: 167 all out in 45.1 overs (Tejas Jituri 33, Vinod T 44; Shashidhar HS 2-37, Chethan BS 2-22, Perumal S 4-35) lt to Friends Union Cricketers, KGF: 169/5 in 38.4 overs (Ankush Boppanna 42, Arjun KY 66; Raaj R 3-38).

Rajveer, Akhieera power Minerva

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rajveer Padam Mehta and Akhieera Allan W hammered hundreds before the bowlers complemented their efforts with quick wickets to power Minerva Cricket Club to a 158-run victory over Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2) in the KSCA Group I, Division I, II, III Under-14 Inter-Club tournament here.

Brief scores: Minerva CC: 256/2 in 25 overs (Rajveer Padam Mehta 110, Akhieera Allan W 116 n.o.) bt Visweswarapuram CC (2): 98/9 in 25 overs (Mohammed Zainuddin 51 n.o.; Dhiraj HY 2-10, Rajveer Padam Mehta 2-5, Yug Sinh Jadeja 2-13) by 158 runs.
Yankees CC: 83 all out in 24.2 overs (Puneeth HR 3-12, Sanjan S 2-11) lt to Cavaliers CC: 84/4 in 15.5 overs (Preyas Ashwin M 38; Niyanth Lakshman 2-31).
Mount Joy CC: 206/8 in 50 overs (Deekshith Gowda R 33, Srijan Gouda SF 31, Saideep S 31, Vismay N Murthy 38, Anirudh Prasanna 27 n.o.; Chirantan Chinmaya Mangalore 4-29) lt to City Gymkhana: 208/3 in 37.5 overs (Jashwanth M 28, Bhairav Gowda 102 n.o., Bhuvith S 40; Sharav Chetan Koundinya 2-52).
Swastic Union CC (1): 295/6 in 50 overs (Saachin Suresh Araganji 111, Arnav Rajeev Nambiar 67; Vivaan V 3-77) bt Coles CC: 236 all out in 46 overs (Dwit Shailesh Kukarvadiya 37, Aanchit Jha 54, Eric Rupreo 60; Tejas Sudhindra Bhat 2-53, Vivaan Bhusad 2-34).
Friends Union CC (1): 259/8 in 50 overs (Samar Modhe 52, Rishabh Gowda M 61; Swaroop H 2-37, Ayaan N Sarawad 3-28) bt Modern CC: 95 all out in 31.3 overs (Tamoghna V Rao 2-8, Md Rayan Reza 3-22).

WPL: India's Deepti, New Zealand's Kerr walk away with biggest deals

All-rounders rule the roost

WPL SQUADS

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU
- Smriti Mandhana (3.5 cr)
- Richa Ghosh (2.75 cr)
- Ellyse Perry (2 cr)
- Shreyanka Patil (60 lakh)
- Lauren Bell (90 lakh)
- Pooja Vastrakar (85 lakh)
- Arundhati Reddy (75 lakh)
- Grace Harris (75 lakh)
- Nadine de Klerk (65 lakh)
- Georgia Voll (60 lakh)
- Radha Yadav (65 lakh)
- Linsey Smith (30 lakh)
- Dayalan Hemalatha (30 lakh)
- Prema Rawat (20 lakh) RTM
- Gautam Naik (10 lakh)
- Prathyoosha Kumar (10 lakh)

DELHI CAPITALS
- Jemimah Rodrigues (2.2 cr)
- Shafali Verma (2.2 cr)
- Annabel Sutherland (2.2 cr)
- Marizanne Kapp (2.2 cr)
- Sree Charani (1.3 cr)
- Chinelle Henry (1.3 cr)
- Laura Wolvaardt (Rs 1.1 cr)
- Sneh Rana (50 lakh)
- Niki Prasad (50 lakh)
- Minnu Mani (40 lakh)
- Lizelle Lee (30 lakh)
- Taniyaa Bhatia (30 lakh)
- Nandidi Sharma (20 lakh)
- Lucy Hamilton (10 lakh)
- Deeya Yadav (10 lakh)
- Mamatha Madiwala (10 lakh)

UP WARRIORZ
- Deepti Sharma (3.2 cr) RTM
- Shikha Pandey (2.4 cr)
- Meg Lanning (1.9 cr)
- Phoebe Litchfield (1.2 cr)
- Asha Shobana (1.1 cr)
- Sophie Ecclestone (85 lakh) RTM
- Deandra Dottin (80 lakh)
- Kiran Navgire (60 lakh) RTM
- Harleen Deol (50 lakh)
- Kranti Gaud (50 lakh) RTM
- Pratika Rawal (50 lakh)
- Shweta Sehrawat (50 lakh)
- Chloe Tryon (30 lakh)
- Shipra Giri (10 lakh)
- Simran Shaikh (10 lakh)
- Tara Norris (10 lakh)
- Suman Meena (10 lakh)
- G Trisha (10 lakh)

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a frenetic Women's Premier League mega auction that lasted many hours of the evening here in New Delhi, as many as four players broke the Rs 2 crore bank, while the majority secured financial security.

As the WPL intraday sprung into life, Deepti Sharma, Amelia Kerr **(in pic)** and Shikha Pandey were the biggest gainers, with all-rounders being the flavour of the evening.

On a day in the cricketing calendar when salaries were open to the world and judged, the mega auction shifted gears between luxury and sensible spending, while springing a surprise or two.

However, on expected terms, Deepti fetched the biggest cheque as the UP Warriorz exercised their Right to Match card for India's World Cup hero to secure her services for Rs 3.2 crore.

After missing the WPL 2025 due to a mental health break, Sophie Devine triggered a bidding war between three teams – Gujarat Giants, Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Delhi Capitals. But it was the Giants who dug deep to sign the Kiwi for Rs 2 crore.

The second biggest deal of the day was signed by all-rounder Kerr, who was last season's joint-highest wicket taker, with a Rs 3 crore contract as the Mumbai Indians used more than half of their remaining funds for the purchase.

Coming into the auction as the wealthiest, UPW also enabled their RTM to bring Sophie Ecclestone back for Rs 85 lakh, while Gujarat added a lethal new-ball weapon in Renuka Singh for Rs 60 lakh.

Meg Lanning and Chinelle Henry were also among the big picks after the marquee set. While a Rs 1.9 crore salary might be a justifiable pay for the Australian legend, who will now play for the Warriorz, Henry's Rs 1.3 crore deal came as a surprise when the Capitals went in for a late swoop.

Mumbai Indians, who lifted the paddle before the auctioneer could even read Shabnim Ismail's name, bagged the South African pace ace for Rs 60 lakh.

When Sree Charani went under the hammer, the cameras turned to the Mumbai Indians after their coach, Lisa Keightley, had showered her with praise. However, there were only smiles with no bids from their camp. But it did come from the Delhi camp, signing her for Rs 1.3 crore with a fight-off from the Warriorz.

Bengaluru, who were at a snail's pace, amped it up as the auction progressed, signing Nadine de Klerk (Rs 65 lakh), Radha Yadav (Rs 60 lakh), and Pooja Vastrakar (Rs 85 lakh), while the Delhi Capitals signed Laura Wolvaardt (Rs 1.1 crore) and also strengthened their spin attack, adding Sneh Rana (Rs 50 lakh).

"We have reached three finals but it is about time to go one step further and we would want like for an Indian to lead the unit," Parth Jindal, Delhi Capitals owner, told the media, quashing any chances of Wolvaardt leading the Capitals after Lanning's departure.

Heather Knight, Alice Capsey, Alyssa Healy, Alana King were among the names who surprisingly failed to sign a contract.

Deepti Sharma fetched the biggest cheque of Rs 3.2 crore as the UP Warriorz exercised their Right to Match card for India's World Cup hero. New Zealand's Amelia Kerr went to Mumbai Indians for Rs 3 crore. PTI/ AFP

RCB splurge on pacers

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After spending a good half of the evening doing the math and lifting the paddle between short breaks, Royal Challengers Bengaluru might just be walking away with a beaming smile, having "ticked every box they needed to", with fast bowlers turning out to be the best-sellers.

England quick Lauren Bell, India's Pooja Vastrakar, and Arundhati Reddy were all auctioned off for a total price of Rs 2.5 crore, which shifted RCB's gears after a slow start.

However, for the first 40 minutes, it felt like RCB went window shopping, having lifted the paddle for Sophie Ecclestone, Laura Wolvaardt and Sophie Devine but had no bails to show on the table.

While it could have been a strategic move to spike the price rather than making a signing, it did not make much sense to leave out the world-class Ecclestone for Rs 85 lakh and then sign a like-for-like replacement in Linsey Smith.

With former England pacer and RCB bowling coach Anya Shrubsole a big part of the franchise think tank, it did slightly reflect in their purchases, with Smith and then their most significant buy of the day, English quick Lauren Bell.

"We are very happy that Anya (Shrubsole) is in our think tank. She has been brilliant with the inputs. Thrilled to have her on our side," RCB head coach Malolan Rangarajan told the media.

Having lost on Renuka Singh, RCB had to go all out in pursuit of a new-ball bowler and ended with Bell for Rs 90 lakh after battling it out with the Mumbai Indians.

Pooja Vastrakar

RCB, after showing no interest in Alyssa Healy earlier, pulled a surprise by picking Australia's Georgia Voll for Rs 60 lakh, who could potentially open with Smriti Mandhana at the top of the order.

The Challengers also injected some muscle into their middle order by adding Nadine de Klerk for just Rs 55 lakh, leaving many shocked with the price, especially after her brilliant World Cup campaign.

With decent spinning options already in RCB's ranks, they did go for Asha Shobhana, but lost her to UP Warriorz.

MUMBAI INDIANS
- Nat Sciver Brunt (3.5 cr)
- Amelia Kerr (3 cr)
- Harmanpreet Kaur (2.5 cr)
- Hayley Matthews (1.75 cr)
- Amanjot Kaur (1 cr)
- G Kamalini (50 lakh)
- Sanjeevan Sajana (75 lakh)
- Shabnim Ismail (60 lakh)
- Nicola Carey (30 lakh)
- Sanskriti Gupta (20 lakh)
- Triveni Vasistha (20 lakh)
- Rahila Firdous (10 lakh)
- Poonam Khemar (10 lakh)
- Nalla Reddy (10 lakh)
- Saika Ishaque (30 lakh)
- Milly Illingworth (10 lakh)

GUJARAT GIANTS
- Ashleigh Gardner (3.5 cr)
- Beth Mooney (2.5 cr)
- Sophie Devine (2 cr)
- Georgia Wareham (1 cr)
- Bharti Fulmali (70 lakh)
- Kashvee Gautam (65 lakh) (RTM)
- Renuka Singh (60 lakh)
- Danni Wyatt-Hodge (50 lakh)
- Kim Garth (50 lakh)
- Tanuja Kanwer (45 lakh)
- Anushka Sharma (45 lakh)
- Rajeshwari Gayakwad (40 lakh)
- Titas Sadhu (30 lakh)
- Kanika Ahuja (30 lakh)
- Ayushi Soni (30 lakh)
- Happy Kumari (10 lakh)

*** All amounts in Rupees**

Navi Mumbai, Vadodara to host WPL from Jan 9

Navi Mumbai and Vadodara were confirmed as the two host venues for the fourth edition of the WPL, which will be played next year from January 9 to February 5. "The upcoming edition of the WPL will be played in Navi Mumbai and the final will be held in Vadodara," WPL Chairperson Jayesh George said at the first-ever WPL mega auction in New Delhi, reports *DHNS*.

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